

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/Sobell Case

FILE NO. 100-107111

VOLUME NO. 91

SERIALS 3877

thru

3920

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File No:

100-107111

Re:

Rosenberg/Sherman Hee

Date:

1-77

(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3877	2/11/60	NY memo to M.P.	2	0	
3878	2/11/60	NY memo to I.P.	2	0	
3879	2/11/60	NY memo to MM	2	0	
3880	2/11/60	NY memo to P.G.	2	0	
3881	2/11/60	NY memo to H.T.	2	0	
3882	2/11/60	NY memo to NK	2	0	
3883	2/11/60	NY memo to C.G.	2	0	
3884	2/11/60	NY memo to A.L.	2	0	
3885	2/11/60	NY memo to C.V.	2	0	
3886	2/11/60	NY memo to H.U.	2	0	
3887	2/11/60	NY memo to P.D.	3	0	
3888	2/11/60	NY memo to B.T.	2	0	

File No: 100-107111Re: Rosenberg/Sobel Committee

Date:

1-78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3889	2/11/60	NY memo to NH	4	0	
3890	2/11/60	NY memo to N.H.	3	0	
3891	2/11/60	NY memo to N.H.	4	4	
3892	2/11/60	NY memo to SAC	4	0	
3893	2/11/60	NY memo to SAC	2	0	
3894	2/11/60	NY memo to P.H.	3	0	
3895	2/11/60	NY memo to S.F.	2	0	
3896	2/11/60	NY memo to L.A.	2	0	
3897	2/17/60	L.A. report to HQ	36	26	page 24 missing
3898	2/15/60	NY memo to MI	3	0	
3899	2/15/60	AT memo to HQ	12	-	NY File # 100-37158
3900	2/16/60	NY Time Newspaper clipping	1	1	

File No: 100-107111Re: Rosen: w/506feeDate: 1-78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3901	2/16/60	NY Times Newspaper clippings	1	1	
3902	2/16/60	C.G. memo to SAC	2	2	
3903	1/29/60	FD-306 Informant report	1	0	
3904	1/29/60	FD-306 Informant report	1	0	
3905	2/16/60	NY memo to WFO	4	0	
3906	2/16/60	INTERNAL FD-306 In- formant report	5	0	
3907	2/18/60	INTERNAL FD-306 In- formant report	4	4	NY File # 100-109849 Serial 1126 9-26-78
3908	2/18/60	N.O. memo to NY.	1	1	
3909	2/18/60	LHM	3	3	
3909	2/18/60	W.F.O Airtel to HQ	1	1	
3910	2/18/60	INTERNAL Informant report	4	4	NY File # 100-109849 dup of 3907 Serial 1126 9-26-78
3911	2/18/60	SAC Airtel to HQ	4	4	

File No: 100-107111

Re: Rosenberg/ Sobell Committee

Date: 1-78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3912	2/19/60	AL Letter to HQ	6	6	
3913	2/19/60	P.H report to HQ	28	24	
3914	2/19/60	C.G. report to HQ	33	-	BUREAU file # 65-58236
3915	2/19/60	NY Airtel to HQ	4	3	
3916	2/24/60	MM Airtel to HQ	2	2	
3917	2/24/60	NY memo to SIC	2	-	NY File # 100-109849
3918	2/26/60	NY memo to NH	4	0	
3919	2/26/60	S.F. report to HQ	15	-	BUREAU file # 65-58236
3920	2/27/60	W.F.O. Airtel to HQ	9	9	

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

File 100-387835

Box 9
Number 3877-3920

See also Nos. [redacted] Note
[redacted] Sub A [redacted] General

[redacted] D. B. [redacted] Works

[redacted] J. C. [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] J. D. [redacted] [redacted]

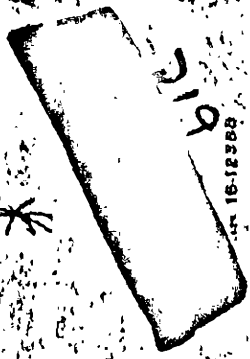
[redacted] J. E. [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] J. H. [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] J. I. [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] J. K. [redacted] [redacted]

*



319

16-12388

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3877 DATE 2/11/60

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

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SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3889 DATE 2/11/60

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SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3890 DATE 2/11/60

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NY 100-128051

Identity of Source

[REDACTED] who has
furnished reliable
info in past (conceal) B7D

Description of Info

SDC Social, 1/16/60.

Date Received

[REDACTED] B7D

Received By

SA [REDACTED]
oral B7C

Original Location

[REDACTED] B7D

Information furnished by informant, as reflected
above, was reduced to typing by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and authenticated by informant [REDACTED] B7C

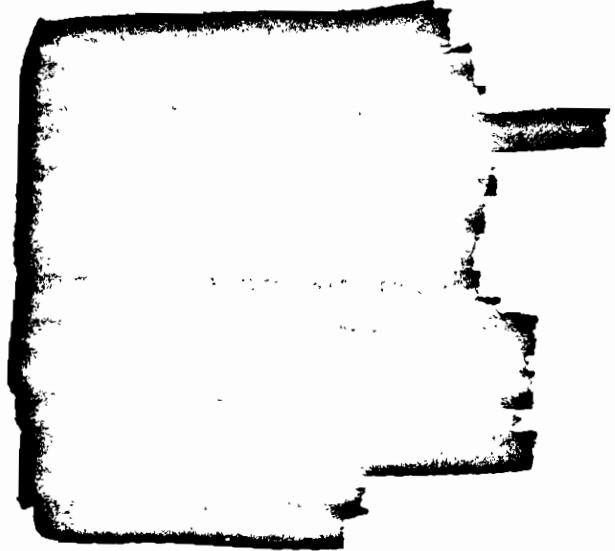
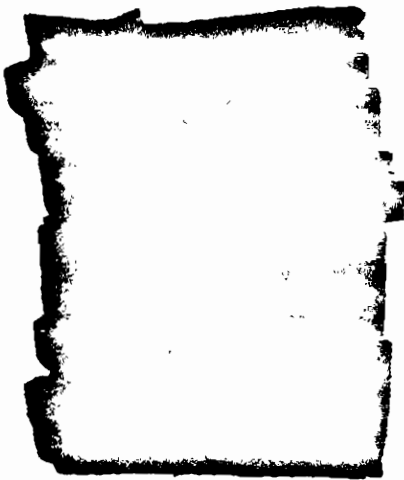
A copy of informant's oral report follows.

NY 100-128051

1/19/60

Seamen's Defense Committee .

On 1/16/60, the SDC held a social at Polonia Hall, 201 Second Ave., NYC, with about 60 individuals present. The affair had been advertised in "National Guardian" and "The Worker." The following were among those present:

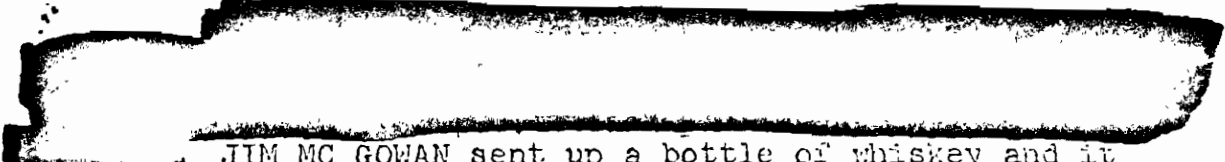


B7D

It was felt that they would have had a better turn out except that there were some other social groups on the same evening.



B7D



B7D

JIM MC GOWAN sent up a bottle of whiskey and it was raffled off. The food was sold but the beer was free.

NY 100-128051

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D [REDACTED] about 100 copies of the January, 1960 issue of "Maritime Voice" [REDACTED] had distributed these on 17th Street around the MMU hall and they had been well received since he hadn't seen any of them thrown away.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3892 DATE 2/11/60

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SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

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SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3896 DATE 2/11/60

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SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3897 DATE 2/12/60

CONSISTING OF 36 PAGES *of which*
pages 6 thru 12, 15-16, ■

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Officers number

page 12 para 1-5
page ■

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3897 DATE 2/12/60

CONSISTING OF 36 PAGES *of which*
page 12, 20

ARE
exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

page 12 para 6-7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE LOS ANGELES	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 2/12/60	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/11-2/8/60
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	TYP b7c pra
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C; INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950	

~~SYNOPSIS~~

The title of this report has been marked CHANGED per instructions in Bureau letter to Albany 11/23/59, captioned as above.

REFERENCE: Report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated 8/14/59 at Los Angeles.

b7c

- P* -

ENCLOSURES: TO BUREAU - (9) 3 copies each of 3 exhibits.

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
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SEE COVER PAGE B			
<i>New York</i>		[REDACTED]	3897
		b7c	

LA 100-41648

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- 1 - San Francisco (100-35117) (Info.) (REGISTERED)
- 2 - Los Angeles (100-41648)

- B -

COVER PAGE

LEADS

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

Will follow and report the activities of the Los Angeles Sobell Committee.

One copy of this report and one copy of the letter-head memo are being furnished to Chicago, San Diego and San Francisco for information since it has been established there is a close alliance between the Los Angeles Sobell Committee and the Sobell Committees of those areas.

Copies have also been designated ^{to} by FIO; Region II, Pasadena; and OSI, District 18, Maywood, for the information of those agencies.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and "T" symbols were utilized in this report only in those instances where the identity of the source must be concealed.

This report is classified confidential because data reported from [redacted] could reasonably result in identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise the effectiveness thereof. b7D

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

Location

LA T-1
[redacted] b1

SA [redacted] b7C
(orally)

SA [redacted] b7C
(orally)

[redacted] b1

LA 100-41648

Identity of Source

Location

LA T-1 (continued)

SA [REDACTED]
(orally)

b7c

b1

[REDACTED]

LA 100-41648

Identity of Source

Location

LA T-1 (continued)

[REDACTED]

b1

LA T-2

[REDACTED]

b7d

LA 100-41648

Identity of Source

Location

LA T-3

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b7d

LA T-4

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LA T-5
CSLA 3469-S*

100-18355-1B18-1,
Vol. 21, p. 2037

LA T-6

[REDACTED] b7d

SA [REDACTED] b7c
(orally)

LA T-7

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b7d

LA T-8

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-9

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

Identity of Source

Location

LA T-9 (continued)

[REDACTED]

b1

LA T-10

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-11

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-12

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-13

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-14

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-15

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-16

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-17

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-18

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-19

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

LA T-20

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

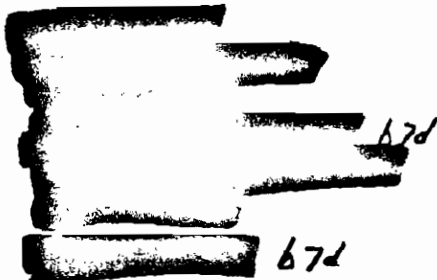
[REDACTED]

b7d

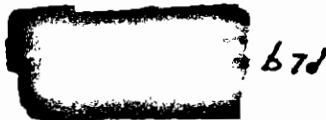
LA 100-41648

DOCUMENTATION OF ORGANIZATIONS

EMMA LAZARUS JEWISH WOMEN'S CLUBS,
aka Emma Lazarus Council of
Jewish Women



JEWISH INFORMATION SERVICE
(LOS ANGELES JEWISH CULTURAL
AND FRATERNAL CLUBS; FRATERNAL
MEDICAL PLAN OF THE CALIFORNIA
FRATERNAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION)



LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL, aka.,
Los Angeles Sobell Committee, Los
Angeles Committee to Secure Justice
in the Rosenberg Case, Los Angeles
Rosenberg-Sobell Committee,
National Committee to Secure Justice
for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg
Case

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL
GARDEN AND CULTURE CLUB OF THE
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT, aka., Progressive
Women's Educational and Garden Club,
69th AD Progressive Women's Education
Club, Progressive Women's Education
Club



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARTS, SCIENCES
AND PROFESSIONS, aka., Hollywood
Arts, Sciences and Professions
Council



EXHIBIT LOCATIONS

EXHIBIT NUMBER 1	100-41648-3842
EXHIBIT NUMBER 2	100-41648A-419
EXHIBIT NUMBER 3	 b1

- H* -

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 1 - FIO, Los Angeles (REGISTERED)
 - 2 - Region II, Pasadena (REGISTERED)
- Copy to: 1 - OSI, District 18, Maywood (REGISTERED)

Report of: SA [REDACTED] b7C

Office: Los Angeles

Date: February 12, 1960

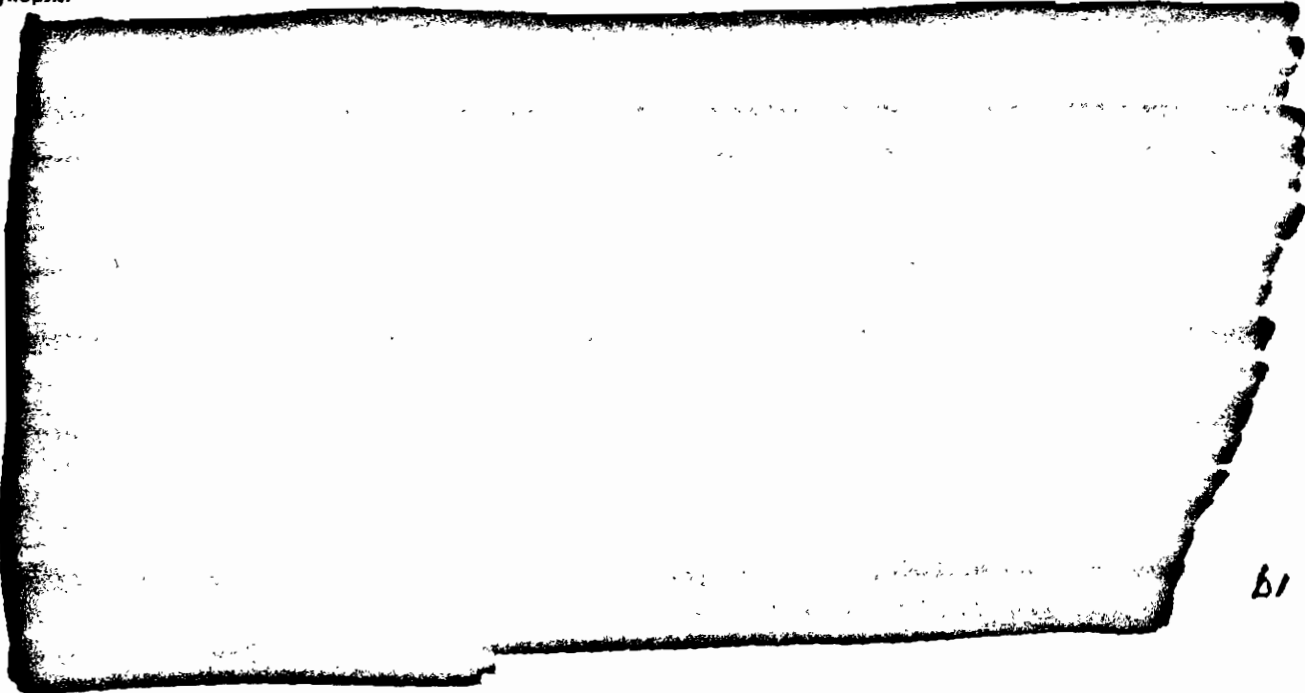
File Number: 100-41648

Bufile: 100-387835

Title: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Synopsis:



b1

- P* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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B. [REDACTED].....	[REDACTED]
C. [REDACTED].....	[REDACTED]
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b2

LA 100-41648

DETAILS:

For the purpose of brevity the Los Angeles Sobell Committee will be hereinafter referred to as the LASC and the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell as the CSJMS.

The Communist Party (CP), USA and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

I. HEADQUARTERS

 b2

As of January 25, 1960 the headquarters of the LASC was located in Suite 3, 462 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

II. CHARACTERIZATION

 b2

The LASC (see appendix) is the Los Angeles, California affiliate of the CSJMS (see appendix).

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on March 29, 1951, on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The ROSENBERGS were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on the same date. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953; and MORTON SOBELL is currently serving his sentence at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta.

III. SCOPE

[REDACTED] b2

As of January 25, 1960 the LASC was composed of the Los Angeles Area Chapter, also known as the Metro Chapter; the Long Beach Chapter; the San Pedro Chapter; the Valley Chapter; and the recently formed Altadena-Pasadena Chapter.

During the past six months other Sobell groups such as the Fresno Sobell group have worked intermittently with the LASC, but were not recognized as full-fledged active groups, although they did conduct some fund raising affairs in behalf of MORTON SOBELL.

IV. OFFICERS

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1

LA 100-41648

IRMA (WIDGE) NEWMAN

[REDACTED] b7D

IRMA (WIDGE) NEWMAN was a member of the American Youth for Democracy (AYD) while attending New York University, New York City.

The AYD has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] b2 b7D

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] b7d

DOROTHY MAYR

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

EVELYN BURKETT

LA T-5 (11/29/50) 62

As of November 29, 1950 EVELYN BURKETT was the Executive Secretary of the Music Division of the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council (see appendix).

LA 100-41648

JANET GOLDSTEIN

[REDACTED] b2

As of August, 1959 JANET GOLDSTEIN was a member of the Los Angeles Local - SWP (LAL-SWP).

CAROL BEAN

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

No other information of a subversive nature is known concerning CAROL BEAN.

V. MEMBERSHIP

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

VI. FINANCES

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

LA 100-41648

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b7d

D. FRESNO SOBELL GROUP

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b2
[REDACTED] b7d

LA [REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

VIOLA GABRIEL

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b2

As of December, 1958, VIOLA GABRIEL, "Fresno Group" was a National Committee member of the CSJMS.

LA 100-41648

E. MISCELLANEOUS SOBELL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b2

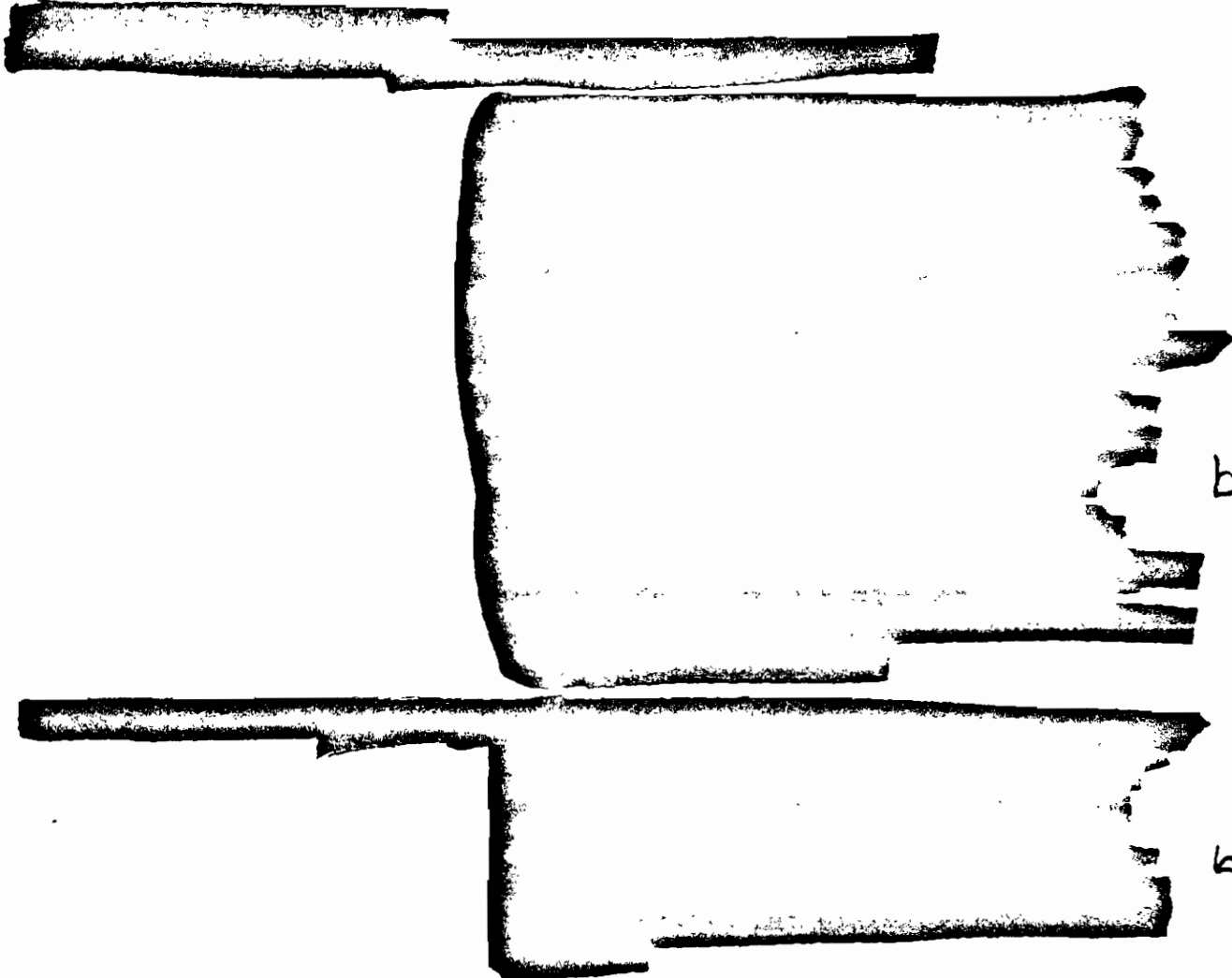
[REDACTED]

Donations were accepted and everyone was urged to write president EISENHOWER for amnesty for SOBELL.

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

LA 100-41648



On October 25, 1959 HELEN SOBELL was interviewed on the Dan Lundberg television program, Channel 13, KCOP-TV on the topic "Should Prisoners be Allowed Connubial Visits?" SOBELL took the affirmative of the topic, stating she believed such visits would be good from the point of view of rehabilitation and answered questions concerning her view. She gave a summary lasting approximately two minutes concerning her husband's trial and conviction.

On October 27, 1959 LEW IRWIN, Channel 7, KABC-TV news announcer, stated on his program or quoted others as saying

LA 100-41648

there was no evidence that SOBELL was a spy or had betrayed his country, and had been convicted because he had spoken to the ROSENBERGS four or five times during a period of three or four years. IRWIN further stated that after SOBELL had gone to Mexico he had been "kidnaped by Mexican thugs", who turned him over to "U. S. Agents" at the border. He announced that on the following evening a taped interview of HELEN SOBELL would be broadcast so that she could give her side of the story.

On October 28, 1959 a taped interview of HELEN SOBELL was presented on the Channel 7, KABC-TV news program of LEO IRWIN. IRWIN stated he had reported about the SOBELL case on the previous evening. HELEN SOBELL appeared on a television monitor and discussed her husband's trial and conviction.

X. LEGAL ASPECTS

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] b1

XI. SUBVERSIVE RAMIFICATIONS

A. CONNECTIONS WITH THE CP (above)

[REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b2

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b2

On [REDACTED] at a meeting of the [REDACTED] CP [REDACTED] a copy of a letter to President EISENHOWER regarding [REDACTED] for MORTON SOBELL was discussed and it was agreed copies of the letter would be made to be mailed to the President.

b7D

B. CONNECTIONS WITH THE SWP (above)

[REDACTED]

b2

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b2

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b2

[REDACTED]

b7D

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon MORTON SOBELL, ' the ROSENBERGS' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case'"

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated January 2, 1957, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 60.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the current name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The 1959-1960 Borough of Manhattan telephone directory lists the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" as being located at 940 Broadway, New York, New York.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

EMMA LAZARUS JEWISH WOMEN'S CLUBS, aka. Emma Lazarus Council
Of Jewish Women (ELJWC)

A source advised [REDACTED] that the Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles are affiliated with the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Club, having national headquarters in New York, New York, which, until the early part of 1951, were known as the Emma Lazarus Division, Jewish People's Fraternal Order. According to the informant, the Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs, Los Angeles, in about 1952 and early 1953 were also known as the Emma Lazarus Council of Jewish Women. **67D**

The Jewish People's Fraternal Order has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Another source advised [REDACTED] that the aims and objectives of the Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles are directed mainly towards raising funds for the publications, "People's World" and "Morning Freiheit," and for the organization, Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. Financial support for these is solicited at the majority of functions of the Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles. **67D**

According to the California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1955, page 308, Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born "is well known as a Communist front."

The "People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The "Morning Freiheit" has been "one of the rankest organs of Communist propaganda in this country for almost a quarter of a century." (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311, March 29, 1944, page 75.)

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

JEWISH INFORMATION SERVICE (LOS ANGELES JEWISH CULTURAL AND FRATERNAL CLUBS; FRATERNAL MEDICAL PLAN OF THE CALIFORNIA FRATERNAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION)

A source advised [REDACTED] that the Jewish Information Service was formed about January, 1954, in Los Angeles for the purpose of continuing "cultural" activity of the International Workers Order. Prior to March 4, 1956, the Los Angeles Jewish Cultural and Fraternal Clubs were identified as the Los Angeles Jewish Cultural Clubs, this group being formerly known as lodges of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order. The Jewish Information Service and the Los Angeles Jewish Cultural and Fraternal Clubs are currently active in the Los Angeles area. b7D

The Fraternal Medical Plan of the California Fraternal Service Association was formed about January, 1954 for the purpose of continuing the activity of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order Medical Plan. Since that date the functioning of the Fraternal Medical Plan of the California Fraternal Service Association has been integrated into the operation of the Los Angeles Jewish Cultural and Fraternal Clubs, inasmuch as the service provided by the Fraternal Medical Plan of the California Fraternal Service Association is made available almost exclusively to members of the Los Angeles Jewish Cultural and Fraternal Clubs; further, effort is made to have members of the Los Angeles Jewish Cultural and Fraternal Clubs also become members of the Fraternal Medical Plan of the California Fraternal Service Association.

The Fraternal Medical Plan of the California Fraternal Service Association is currently active in the Los Angeles area.

The International Workers Order and the Jewish People's Fraternal Order have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND GARDEN CULTURE CLUB OF
THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT, aka. (PWECC)

A source advised [REDACTED] that the Progressive Women's Educational and Garden Culture Club (PWECC) has been in existence since 1939, having been organized in Bellflower, California, with Communist Party (CP) members in guiding positions. b7D

Source furnished the Constitution and By-laws of the organization wherein it describes the aim of this organization is to organize all women from home, office, profession, and industry, without regard to race, religion, national origin, or political party in their common interest:

1. To take action to defend and advance political, economic, legal and social rights.
2. To promote their welfare as women through political, legislative and educational action.
3. To participate actively for the advancement of democracy in America, and to promote the close collaboration of peoples of the world on a political, social and cultural sphere, and to bring about the establishment of a permanent peace.

Another source advised [REDACTED] as follows: b7D

The PWECC was described [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as an active front organization of the far east of Calif. b7D

Another source advised [REDACTED] that through the assignment of CP members to work within the PWECC the Harbor Section, Southern California District CP, subtly influences the majority of the programs and activities of the PWECC. Informant further advised membership in the PWECC does not necessarily indicate CP membership. The PWECC is currently active. b7D

pg 24
missing pg

APPENDIX

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS,
SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS, aka.
Hollywood Arts, Sciences and
Professions Council

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations" (revised January 2, 1957) page 132, stated this organization is cited as "one of the major Communist dominated propaganda media on the Pacific Coast" (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1955, pages 392 and 393).

An informant advised [REDACTED] that the Los Angeles Chapter was dissolved [REDACTED] 67D

The National Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a "Communist front" by the United States Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report number 1954, dated April 26, 1950.

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XIII. EXHIBITS

Enclosed for the Bureau are three photostatic copies of each of the following exhibits:

EXHIBIT NUMBER 1

Two mimeographed pages concerning the Western tour of HELEN SOBELL, signed "WIDGE NEWMAN for the committee".

EXHIBIT NUMBER 2

Four mimeographed pages captioned "Text of Remarks by Professor THOMAS I. EMERSON of the Yale Law School .." at a public meeting.

EXHIBIT NUMBER 3

[REDACTED]

b1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. :

100-41848

Los Angeles, California
February 12, 1960

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR
MORTON SOBELL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

All informants utilized in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated and captioned as above, at Los Angeles, California, have furnished reliable information in the past. b7c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3898 DATE 2/15/60

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

Letter to the Times

To Free Gold and Sobell

Clemency Believed in Order in View of Ten Years' Imprisonment

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

We should like, with your permission, to direct public attention to the cases of two men now serving sentences of thirty years' imprisonment for espionage. We feel that in both cases the sentences were excessive and that—a full decade having passed—an act of clemency is now in order.

The first case is that of Harry Gold, who cooperated fully with the authorities in exposing Soviet espionage activities in this country, but who nevertheless (for reasons beyond our comprehension) received this extreme sentence. He now languishes in jail. While both Allen Nunn May and Klaus Fuchs were far more important and sinister figures than Gold, neither evidenced any noticeable change of heart; neither rendered any assistance to his Government; and yet they are now set free, while Gold remains in prison. We submit that this is an absurd injustice which ought to be remedied.

The second case is that of Morton Sobell. We agree with the jury that Sobell—who protests his innocence—was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is an ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that, having served the term, he should now be released.

Lack of Evidence

Sobell was tried together with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of supplying atomic data to Soviet agents and were later executed. The only witness against him, Max Elitcher, stated merely that Sobell had tried, without success, to get military information from him for the benefit of the Soviet Union. Elitcher said nothing about atomic espionage, as Judge Kaufman admitted in sentencing Sobell: "The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atom bomb project."

This is why the late Judge Jerome Frank of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit dissented from the opinion of his two colleagues in upholding the verdict on Sobell.

In view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison.

(We do not mention David Greenglass, another principal involved in this case, whose testimony as a cooperative witness played a key role, because he was sentenced to fifteen years and has been eligible for parole for some time. His applications for parole have been uncharitably denied seven times. (What we have said above applied *a fortiori* to him.)
NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK,
IRVING KRISTOL, DWIGHT MACDONALD.

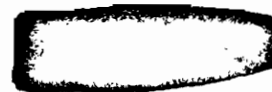
New York, Feb. 9, 1960.

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. TIMES
EDITION LATE CITY
DATED 2-16-60
PAGE 36

IF FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION
DO NOT FORWARD BY NY POST

100-107111-3900

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED



b7c

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NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK,
IRVING KRISTOL, DWIGHT MACDONALD.

New York, Feb. 9, 1960.

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y.

Times

EDITION

Late City

DATED

2-16-60

PAGE

36

b7c

3901

jel

SAC, CHICAGO (100-25530)

February 10, 1960

SA [REDACTED] b7c

CHICAGO SOBELL COMMITTEE
IS - C

On February 8, 1960, [REDACTED] personally furnished b7d
to the writer a handwritten report containing the results of the
monitorship of the bank account of captioned organization for the
month of January, 1960. This account is maintained at Amalgamate
Trust and Savings Bank, 111 South Dearborn Street, Chicago.

Report is filed in A) [REDACTED] b7d

Source also advised on February 8, 1960, that the records
of the Amalgamated Trust and Savings Bank do not indicate any
change in the officers of this organization for the past several
years.

USE OF THIS INFORMATION IN REPORTS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED
BY THE STATEMENT THAT THE INFORMATION CANNOT BE MADE PUBLIC EXCEPT
IN THE USUAL PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF A SUBPOENA DUCES
TECUM.

The report, as it relates to captioned organization, is
set forth as follows:

- ① - New York (RM)
 - 1 - 100-10711 (National Committee to Secure
Justice for MORTON SOBELL)
- 3 - Chicago
 - 1 - A) [REDACTED] b7d
 - 1 - 100- [REDACTED] b7c

JJP:MAM

(4)

3902

b7c

Chicago Sobell Comm.
Jan - 1960

<u>Date</u>	<u>Checks</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Balance</u>
			\$423.19
4		66.00	489.19
15		102.00	591.19
15	50.00		541.19
21		178.00	719.19
25	7.50		692.39
27	37.82		655.57
29		143.00	798.57

Amount

Payee

Cleared Through

\$50.00 Cash
7.50 Comm to Secure Justice -
M. SOBELL
18.30 LEO TANNENBAUM
37.82 Art Mimeo & Letter

us.
Corn Exchange - New York
National Boulevard - Chgo.
Madison Bank - Chgo.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3903 DATE 1/29/60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains
information which would disclose an intelligence
source. This serial bears the Classification
Officers number .

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3904 DATE 1/29/60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

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FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3905 DATE 2/16/60

CONSISTING OF 4 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains
information which would disclose an intelligence
source. This serial bears the Classification
Officers number ██████

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL

3906

DATE

1/21/60

CONSISTING OF

5

PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material
FD-306 (3-21-58)

TO : SAC (100-27290)
FROM : SA [redacted] b7c
SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

2/18/60

Date Rec'd 1/25/60 Rec'd from [redacted] (name or symbol number) b7d Rec'd by SA [redacted]

Method of Delivery (check appropriate blocks) b7c

X () in person () by telephone () by mail () orally
() recording device () written by informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent: Date of Report: 1/22/60

Dictated _____ to _____ Date(s) of Activity 1/15/60
Transcribed _____
Authenticated by Informant _____

Brief description of activity or material
Meeting at Community Church Center, Boston, Mass., at which Mrs. MORTON SOBELL spoke.

File where original is located if not attached: [redacted]

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of this informant, the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of this informant.

Informant's written report, dated 1/22/60, follows:

"On Fri. evening Jan. 15 there was a meeting held at Community Church Center to hear Helen Sobell speak. Also to listen to a rebroadcast of her television interview with Lew Irwin in Calif. (I think San Francisco).



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR COPIES

LMM:jmp
(23)

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
100-707111-3
3907
[Signature]

BS 100-27290

COPIES TO:

New York (RM)

1- 100-

(NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL)

✓ 1- 100-

(HELEN SOBELL)

San Francisco (RM)

1- 100-

(NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL)

[REDACTED]

Boston

(u)

[REDACTED]

b7d

100-

(HELEN SOBELL)

The following have been indexed to Boston 100-27290:

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED] Fewer than 50 people in attendance; [REDACTED]

"First we listened to the rebroadcast with Lew Irwin which showed Helen Sobell on a T.V. screen stating her reasons for her belief in Mortons innocence.

"Then Bertha Reynolds introduced Helen Sobell. Who restated there wasn't one thread of evidence to uphold the charges against Morton. She stated Roy Conn who was the Gov'ts lawyer in the Fort Monmouth case was the govts lawyer against her husband.

"The only link they had between the Rosenbergs and her husband was that possibly they had spoken to each other on five occassions.

"She made great stress on the new developments in the case as stated in Today's Verdict July 1959 published by the Nat. Comm. to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell. (pg. 1) also of the appeal by Rev. Peter McCormack the prison Chaplain who came to know Morton in prison -- also pg. 1. Also on pg. 2 & 3 -- 1950 The Facts & Issues in the Case of Morton Sobell 1959 In just about the order they are printed.

"In ans. to a question as to where she put the blame for this -- she stressed -- on the historical times rather than any individual.

"She noted that only two short years ago the effort was made to transfer him from Alcatraz to a jail closer to his family -- which was now an accomplished fact. So she is hopeful that much can be accomplished now.

"She said that afternoon she'd had an interview with Connan of the Christian Science Monitor which they would publish.

"Jean Landy announced that on Sun. from 2-6 there would be open house held at her home in Sharon - 26 Norfolk Pl. for Helen Sobell.

"People were asked for donations. Mary Carlson being asked to collect and Sue Koritz helping her. [REDACTED]

BS 100-27290

[REDACTED] furnished two copies of the July, 1959 issue of "Today's Verdict" published by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell and a form letter addressed to President EISENHOWER relative to the freeing of MORTON SOBELL which were passed out at the meeting of 1/15/60. b7d

Names of individuals residing within the territory of the Boston Office appearing on pages 2 and 4 of "Today's Verdict" are being indexed to the 1-A section of 100-27290.

The mentioned form letter which is also being placed in the 1-A section of 100-27290 follows:

"President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. President:

"Many of our most eminent citizens and publications believe the trial of Morton Sobell to have been unfair, or the 30-year sentence excessive. In view of this significant concern, it is disturbing that no action has yet been taken in his behalf.

"I wish to add my voice to those requesting you to commute his sentence to the time served. Even the possibility that an innocent man may be imprisoned is a terrible thing. Each added day of prison that Morton Sobell is made to endure -- and he is already in his 10th year -- compounds this tragic situation for the Sobell family and for our country.

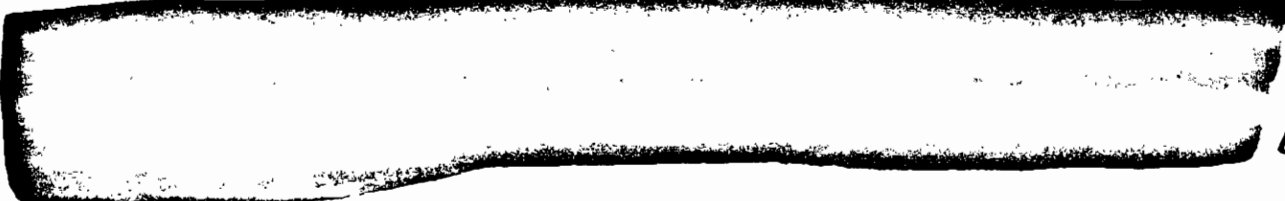
"Very sincerely yours,"

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111)(41) DATE: 2/18/61

FROM : *RW* SAC, NEW ORLEANS (100-14371)SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

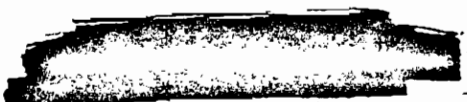
 61

Reverend CLARENCE H. SNELLING, JR. has had some connection with the Southern Conference Educational Fund and its Director JAMES ANDERSON DOMERGUESI and was formerly the Director of the Wesleyan Foundation at Tulane University. Unless advised to the contrary by your office, it will be assumed that the informant referred to Reverend CLARENCE H. SNELLING, JR.

② - New York (Registered Mail)
2 - New Orleans (1, 100-759)

MRK/mjw
(4)

100-107111-3908

 67C



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

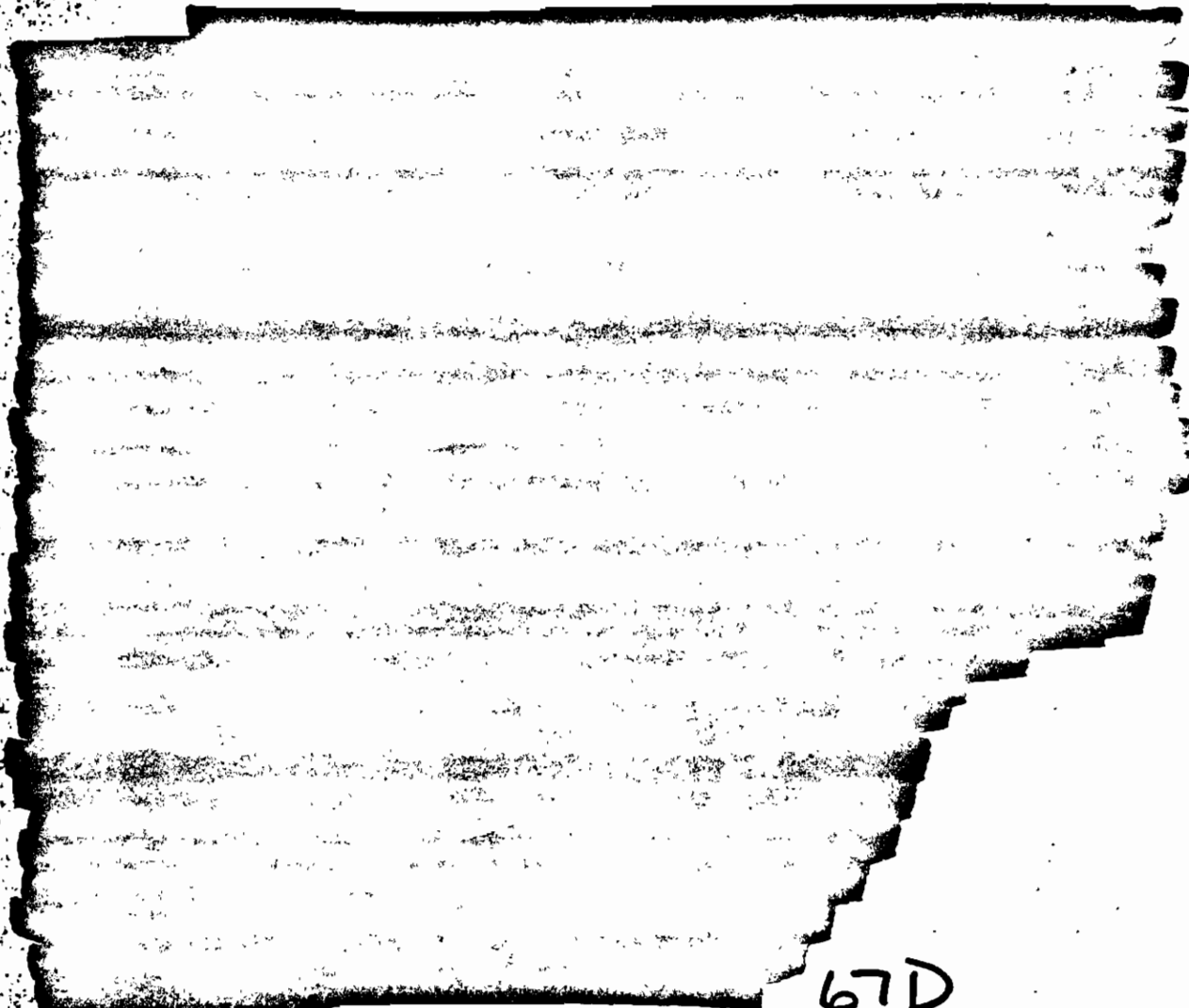
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 10, 1951

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

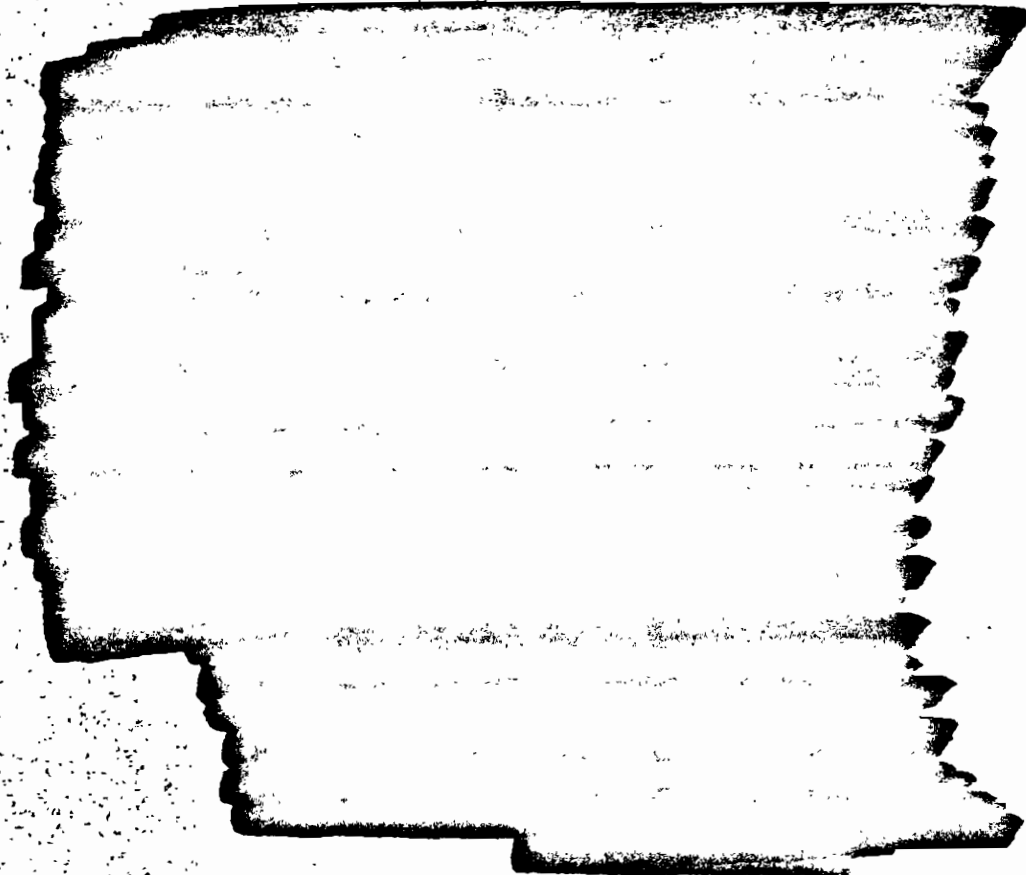
COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR HONORABLE SAMUEL

A description of the above organization is attached.

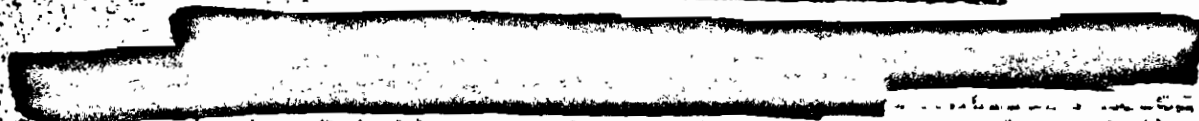


67D

RE: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR HUTTON BROWN



b7D



b7d

Ginsburg (Michele Sobell, Mrs. Hutton Brown) as a member of the Education and Literature Committee of the CP in Washington, D. C., [redacted]

b7D

The CP and CEA have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case'"

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated January 2, 1957, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 60.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the current name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The 1959-1960 Borough of Manhattan telephone directory lists the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" as being located at 940 Broadway, New York, New York.

2/18/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387235)

C I N A L

FROM: SAC, WFO (100-25474)

**COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL
IS - C; ISA OF 1950
(OO: NY)**

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies and for New York and Baltimore one copy each of a letterhead memorandum which is self-explanatory.

in the memorandum is [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED], who made available information to [REDACTED]
Information maintained [REDACTED] b7D b7c

OSI, Fourth District, ONI, FERS and G-2, NY are being furnished a copy of the attached memorandum on a local level.

New York is being furnished as an enclosure [REDACTED] b7D

- P.
- 3 - Bureau (Encls. 5)
- ② - New York (100-107111) (Encls. 2), (RM)
- 1 - Baltimore (100-15241) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 1 - WFO

CMG:ij
(7)

AIRTEL

3909

only 1 copy of letterhead memo sent 2/19/68

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material
FD-306 (3-21-58)

TO : SAC (100-27290) b7c
FROM : SA [redacted]
SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

2/18/60

Date Rec'd Rec'd from (name or symbol number) Rec'd by

1/25/60

[redacted] b7d

SA [redacted]

Method of Delivery (check appropriate blocks)

b7c

X () in person () by telephone () by mail () orally
() recording device () written by informant

If orally furnished and reduced
to writing by Agent:

Date of Report:

1/22/60

Dictated _____ to _____

Date(s)

of

Activity

1/15/60

Transcribed _____

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Brief description of activity or material

Meeting at Community Church Center, Boston,
Mass., at which Mrs. MORTON SOBELL spoke.

File where original
is located if not
attached: [redacted]

b7d

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of this informant, the
utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this
information prior to dissemination in order to protect the
identity of this informant.

Informant's written report, dated 1/22/60, follows:

"On Fri. evening Jan. 15 there was a meeting held at
Community Church Center to hear Helen Sobell speak.
Also to listen to a rebroadcast of her television inter-
view with Lew Irwin in Calif. (I think San Francisco).

[Large redacted block]

b7d

39

100-10711

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR COPIES

LMM:jmp
(23)

SEARCHED [initials]
SERIALIZED [initials]
[Handwritten notes and stamps]

BS 100-27290

COPIES TO:

New York (RM)

✓ 1- 100-

(NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL)

1- 100-

(HELEN SOBELL)

San Francisco (RM)

1- 100-

(NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL)

(u)

[REDACTED]

Boston

[REDACTED]

b7d

100-

(HELEN SOBELL)

The following have been indexed to Boston 100-27290:

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED] Fewer than 50 people in attendance; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"First we listened to the rebroadcast with Lew Irwin which showed Helen Sobell on a T.V. screen stating her reasons for her belief in Mortons innocence. b7d

"Then Bertha Reynolds introduced Helen Sobell. Who restated there wasn't one thread of evidence to uphold the charges against Morton. She stated Roy Conn who was the Gov'ts lawyer in the Fort Monmouth case was the govts lawyer against her husband.

"The only link they had between the Rosenbergs and her husband was that possibly they had spoken to each other on five occassions.

"She made great stress on the new developments in the case as stated in Today's Verdict July 1959 published by the Nat. Comm. to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell. (pg. 1) also of the appeal by Rev. Peter McCormack the prison Chaplain who came to know Morton in prison -- also pg. 1. Also on pg. 2 & 3 -- 1950 The Facts & Issues in the Case of Morton Sobell 1959 in just about the order they are printed. (u)

"In ans. to a question as to where she put the blame for this -- she stressed -- on the historical times rather than any individual.

"She noted that only two short years ago the effort was made to transfer him from Alcatraz to a jail closer to his family -- which was now an accomplished fact. So she is hopeful that much can be accomplished now.

"She said that afternoon she'd had an interview with Connan of the Christian Science Monitor which they would publish.

"Jean Landy announced that on Sun. from 2-6 there would be open house held at her home in Sharon - 26 Norfolk Pl. for Helen Sobell.

"People were asked for donations. Mary Carlson being asked to collect and Sue Koritz helping her.
[REDACTED]

b7d

BS 100-27290

[REDACTED] furnished two copies of the July, 1959 issue of "Today's Verdict" published by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell and a form letter addressed to President EISENHOWER relative to the freeing of MORTON SOBELL which were passed out at the meeting of 1/15/60. 87d

Names of individuals residing within the territory of the Boston Office appearing on pages 2 and 4 of "Today's Verdict" are being indexed to the 1-A section of 100-27290.

The mentioned form letter which is also being placed in the 1-A section of 100-27290 follows:

"President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. President:

"Many of our most eminent citizens and publications believe the trial of Morton Sobell to have been unfair, or the 30-year sentence excessive. In view of this significant concern, it is disturbing that no action has yet been taken in his behalf.

"I wish to add my voice to those requesting you to commute his sentence to the time served. Even the possibility that an innocent man may be imprisoned is a terrible thing. Each added day of prison that Morton Sobell is made to endure -- and he is already in his 10th year -- compounds this tragic situation for the Sobell family and for our country.

"Very sincerely yours,"

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

[REDACTED] b2

AIRTEL

REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387035)
FROM: SAC, [REDACTED] b1
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR
MORTON SOBELL
IS - C

[REDACTED] b1

The enclosed memorandum is classified Confidential inasmuch as it was furnished by an informant of confidential value, whose identity should be protected.

3
2
1
[REDACTED] b1

JAH:mfd (41)
(7)
1 - Supervisor [REDACTED] b7c

100-107111-3911
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
[REDACTED] b2
[REDACTED] b7c



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 100-337355

[Redacted] 61

Re: Committee to Secure Justice for
Horton Sobell

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, made a ballistic test of the bullet which, according to this source, was fired at the 1950 Democratic Convention, held in Houston, Texas, on February 14, 1950. The introduction and contents of this report are as follows:

Text of Resolution concerning the impeachment of Horton Sobell adopted from the floor of the California Democratic Convention, held in Fresno, Calif., February 14th, and attended by delegates representing 30 Congresses in the state:

Horton Sobell is entering his 43rd year. He has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence through his government. Many eminent Americans and other world figures including jurists, scientists, clergymen have also expressed their doubts as to his guilt. There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when such a person has been

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

att # 1 to 100-107111-3911

Re: Committee to Secure Justice
for Morton Sobell
100-337035

"Subjected to the political tensions of the past, the U.S. has
traditionally expressed concern for possible dangers to its
justice and civil liberties. U.S.S. calls upon the Congress
of the United States to review again the facts in the Sobell
case and take necessary action to secure absolute justice.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case'"

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated January 2, 1957, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 60.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the current name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The 1959-1960 Borough of Manhattan telephone directory lists the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" as being located at 940 Broadway, New York, New York.

X

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387835)

2/19/60

SAC, ATLANTA (100-4953)

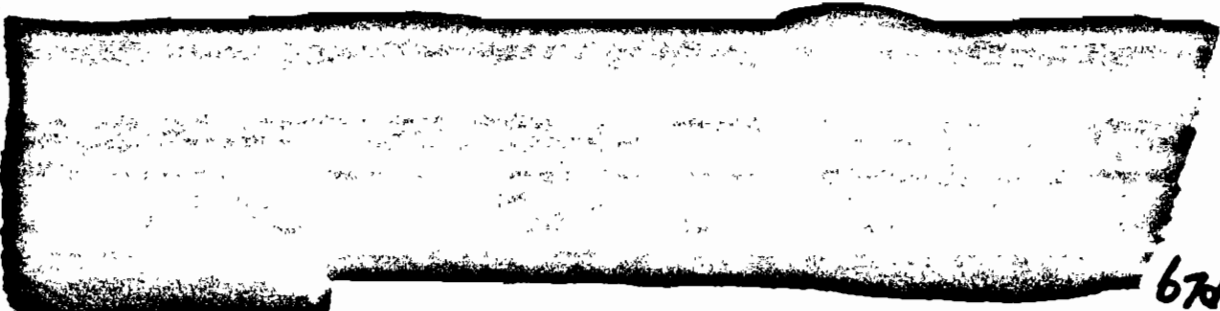
COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL
IS - C; INTERNAL SECURITY ACT of 1950
(OO: NEW YORK)

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated 2/9/60, captioned as above.

A review of Atlanta files fails to reflect that an active committee affiliated with the National organization of the Committee to Secure Justice for MORTON SOBELL has been formed in the Atlanta area.

The files of Atlanta Office do show that HELEN SOBELL has through personal associations attempted to interest a group of persons in the Atlanta area in this cause, however, every indication is that to date she has been unsuccessful in forming a self-functioning committee on the local level.

Atlanta files reflect following data as it relates to a local committee in the Atlanta area:



In an article appearing in the National Guardian on April 15, 1959, HELEN SOBELL wrote of a visit to her husband at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, wherein she identified an associate as ISOBEL, who drove her to the prison for the visit. Further investigation has

RUC.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- ① - New York (100-107111) (RM)
- 1 - Atlanta

AFM:sbb
(4)

100-107111-3912
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 23 1960
FBI - NEW YORK
b7c b7c

AT 100-4953

tentatively identified ISOBEL as ISOBEL CERNEY, a Security Index subject of the Atlanta Office and whose husband is a Professor at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia. Another associate of HELEN SOBELL was identified in this article as Professor MURRAY BRANCH, who is a faculty member at Morehouse College, Atlanta.

[REDACTED] made available a bulletin of April 1959, b7d wherein the cities were listed which had committees active in behalf of MORTON SOBELL. Atlanta was not listed as one of these 19 cities having such committees.

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7d

Source advised [REDACTED] b7d that HELEN SOBELL was a Communist and that she wanted nothing more to do with HELEN SOBELL or any of those persons connected with the MORTON SOBELL case.

AT 100-4953

Source further advised that to him the meeting was pointless as no one in attendance at this meeting was specifically asked to sign anything, do anything, make contributions, or assist in any type of operation or organization of an appeal.

Source further advised that he had heard HELEN SOBELL had addressed a chapel meeting of the student body at Spelman College during April 1959, however, could not positively state that this occurred as he did not attend this chapel meeting.

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b1

AT 100-4953

It should be noted that several short articles did appear in local Atlanta papers regarding HELEN SOBELL, all of which related to her desires and petitioning to the Warden of the United States Penitentiary for certain family privileges which she desired to have with MORTON SOBELL but which under present prison regulations were not afforded to her. The articles did not indicate any interest on the MORTON SOBELL case on the part of other Atlanta residents.

On March 26, 1959, [REDACTED] at b7d the U. S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., made available certain greeting cards and other communiques which had been received at the USP addressed to SOBELL during the holidays of 1958. Among those communiques received were several from the Atlanta area as follows:

Cards from BERTIE LEE and FREDERICK A. BLOSSOM, who have a summer residence near Clarkesville, Ga., but who normally reside at East Palatka, Fla. Christmas cards from EDWIN H. CERNEY and his wife ISOBEL CERNEY, both of whom reside in Atlanta, Ga. Another Christmas card was received from one JOHN and GERTRUDE KOWAL and it is unknown whether they are residents of the Atlanta area or some other city as communiques not cancelled or postmarked in another area would have received the Atlanta cancellation mark upon receipt for delivery to the Atlanta Penitentiary. BOB and PAT WESTERVELT of Decatur, Georgia, also forwarded a Christmas card to SOBELL which note indicated that MORTON SOBELL's wife, HELEN, had visited in their home over night on one occasion when she had come to the Atlanta area to visit MORTON SOBELL.

It should be noted that EDWIN H. CERNEY is a faculty member at Spelman College and that ROBERT WESTERVELT is a faculty member at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga.

[REDACTED]

b7c

AT 100-4953

In April 1959, [REDACTED] of the *b7d*
United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, made available
a birthday greeting card which was sent to SOBELL
bearing the following signatures:

EDWIN CERNEY
ISOBEL CERNEY
WILLIAM SHIELDS
BOB and PAT WESTERVELT
ANNA M. WATSON
WILLIAM WASHINGTON
DAVID B. HAWK.

On April 9, 1959, another greeting card was made available
by penitentiary officials from one LEWIS and NANCY LUBKA.
Through a review of Atlanta files and other sources
available, including City Directories, it was ascertained
that WILLIAM SHIELDS was on the faculty at Gammon Theological
Seminary and Negro Divinity School in Atlanta; that WILLIAM
WASHINGTON was a Negro student at Gammon Theological School
in Atlanta; and that DAVID B. HAWK was a white faculty
member at the Georgia State College of Business Administration.

The CERNEYS and WESTERVELTS have been previously identified.
LEWIS and NANCY LUBKA are connected with Georgia Institute
of Technology in that LEWIS is a graduate student there.

During the holiday season of 1959 a greeting card was also
received at the Penitentiary for SOBELL from EDWIN H. and
ISOBEL CERNEY and from one PAUL J. MAXWELL, an attorney
in the Atlanta area.

As pointed out above, it is apparent that HELEN SOBELL
has been in contact with a limited number of faculty
members and students in the Atlanta area during the past
several years, and other personages she has interested in
this movement are those several faculty members who are
currently under investigation in the Atlanta Office.

AT 100-4953

It is believed that at the present time there is insufficient evidence of a committee functioning in the Atlanta area regarding the SOBELL committee to warrant investigation pursuant to Section 87E of the Manual of Instructions.

The Atlanta Office will continue to contact sources and informants who may be in a position to furnish information regarding any possible activity of such a group and in the event it is apparent a committee is functioning the Bureau will be advised of same prior to institution an active investigation of this committee.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL

3913

DATE

2/19/60

CONSISTING OF

28

PAGES

of which

page 7-10

are
exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

page 9 para 1, 2, 6

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3913 DATE 2/19/60

CONSISTING OF 28 PAGES *of which*
page 9

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

page 9 para 3, 4, + 5

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office PHILADELPHIA	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 2/4/60 - 2/15/60	Investigative Period
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL		Report made by [REDACTED] b7c	LDP
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - C; ISA, 1950	

By **XXXXXX**
XXXXXX

Reference

Report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated 8/10/59 at Philadelphia. **b7c**

- P* -

Leads

PHILADELPHIA

AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Will follow and report the activities of the Philadelphia Sobell Committee and the Lower Bucks County Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell.

Approved	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:		[REDACTED]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 - Bureau (100-387835) (R.M.) 2 - G-2, Philadelphia (R.M.) 1 - ONI, Philadelphia (R.M.) 1 - OSI, Harrisburg (R.M.) ② - New York (100-107111) (R.M.) 2 - Philadelphia (100-37667) 		<p>b7c</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>b7c 3913</p>	

Administrative Data

Careful consideration has been given to the sources concealed in this report and T symbols were utilized only where necessary.

This report is classified "confidential" since the information contained herein was obtained from informants of continuing value disclosure of which could reasonably prevent their future effectiveness.

Copies of this report are being furnished to G-2, ONI and OSI for information.

The Yiddish translation from "Morning Freiheit" used in this report was made by translator [redacted] of the Philadelphia Division. The particular issue mentioned in this report is located in Philadelphia file 100-2612-1B16-45.

67C

Informants

PH T-1
[redacted]
b7d

PH T-2
[redacted]
b7d

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

} b7D

Informants (Continued)

PH T-2 (continued)

[REDACTED]

PH T-3

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

PH T-4

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

PH T-5

[REDACTED] b1

b1 [REDACTED]

PH T-6

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

PH T-7

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

N. Y.

PH T-8
CS NY 425-S

Characterization of ROSE MAMLIN

PH T-9

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

PH T-10

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

b7D

Informants (Continued)

PH T-11 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-12 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-13 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-14 [redacted] b1	[redacted] b1
PH T-15 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-16 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-17 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-18 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-19 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-20 [redacted] b7d	[redacted]
PH T-21 [redacted] b7d	[redacted] b7d

PH 100-37667

Informants (Continued)

PH T-22

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

PH T-23
NY 1219-S

Characterization of AARON KATZ

PH T-24

100-37667-1B32-12

Trash cover on the
residence of MAX and
LILLIAN MILLMAN, 1414
Devereaux Street, Phila-
delphia, Pa.

[REDACTED] b7d

PH T-25

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] b7D

Informants Used to Characterize Organizations

Lower Bucks County Committee to)
Secure Justice for MORTON SOBELL)

[REDACTED] b7d

Philadelphia Sobell Committee)
)
)

[REDACTED] b7d

Philadelphia Social Science Forum)
Committee)

[REDACTED] b7d

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to: 2 - G-2, Philadelphia
1 - ONI, Philadelphia
1 - OSI, Harrisburg

Report of: [REDACTED] b7c
Date: FEB 13 1960

Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Field Office File #: Philadelphia 100-37667

Bureau File #: 100-587835

Title: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Synopsis:

[REDACTED]

- P* -

DETAILS: All addresses mentioned in this report are located in Philadelphia, Pa., unless otherwise indicated.

Committee to Secure Justice for MORTON SOBELL (CSJMS) is characterized in the Appendix section of this report.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PH 100-37667

PHILADELPHIA SOBELL COMMITTEE (PSC)

A characterization of the PSC is set out in the Appendix section of this report.

Headquarters

[redacted] ^{b2} advised [redacted] that the PSC continues to utilize b7d
the residence of PEARL CHERTOV, 2708 West Sterner Street, Philadelphia, Pa.,
as its headquarters and its mailing address. The informant also advised that
correspondence from the CSJMS in New York is addressed to CHERTOV's residence.

Officers

The following are the current officers of the PSC according to b7d
[redacted]

Chairman	PEARL CHERTOV
Secretary	FREDA RAPPAPORT
Treasurer	SARAH EPSTEIN

[redacted] b7d

[redacted]

b7d

[redacted] b7d

Subversive Affiliations of Officers


PEARL CHERTOV

On [redacted] ^{b2} advised that PEARL CHERTOV b7d
was at that time a member of the [redacted]
Socialist Workers Party (SWP).

PH 100-37667



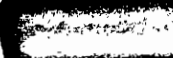
The SWP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

FREDA RAPPAPORT

 that although FREDA RAPPAPORT was not a member of the Philadelphia Branch, SWP, she was a very close sympathizer.

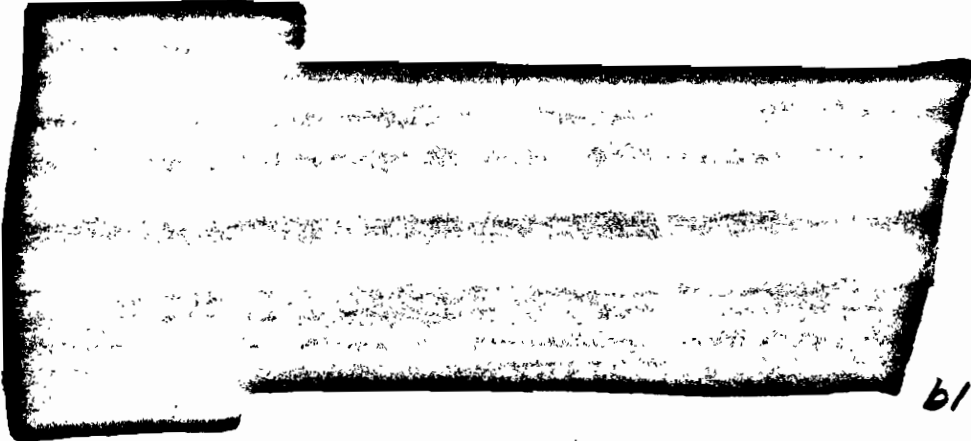
b7d

SARAH EPSTEIN

 advised  that SARAH EPSTEIN, 5745 North Fairhill Street, was a member of the International Workers Order (IWO) .

b7d

The IWO has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.



b1

The CPUSA, its subdivisions and affiliates have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

JEAN FRANTJIS

 advised on  that as of this date JEAN FRANTJIS was a member of the CPEPD.

b7d

PH 100-37667

BEA GRAUMAN

[REDACTED] has advised that she was a member of the CP in Washington, D. C., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D

ROSE MAMLIN

PH T-8 advised on January 16, 1949, and April 17, 1952, that ROSE MAMLIN became a member of Lodge 496, Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order (JPFO) of the IWO in March 1947 and was a member of this Lodge as of April 1952.

b7d

The JPFO of the IWO has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

PH 100-37667

The AYD has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

General Activities

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that the PSC conducted a public meeting in the Green Room, Essex Hotel, 13th and Filbert Streets, on June 26, 1959. Approximately 77 persons attended and JEAN FRANTJIS and Reverend KENNETH RIPLEY FORBES acted as Chairman and Master of Ceremonies, respectively. The principal speaker at this affair was HELEN SOBELL who stated that her reason for being here was to obtain a release for her husband, MORTON SOBELL,

b7d

who is imprisoned at Alcatraz, Calif. [redacted] advised that Mrs. SOBELL gave the details of the arrest of her husband and of her efforts through the years to obtain his release. Mrs. SOBELL claimed that her husband was completely innocent and pleaded with those in attendance to aid her in her fight to free MORTON SOBELL. [redacted]

b7d

[redacted] advised [redacted] that the PSC sponsored a public meeting at the Essex Hotel, 137th and Filbert Streets, on June 26, 1959. This informant attended and furnished substantially the same information regarding this meeting as [redacted]

b7d

[redacted] advised [redacted] that although he did not know Reverend KENNETH HARLEY FORBES to be a member of the CP, he knew FORBES to be extremely sympathetic to the Communist cause and to Communist activities.

b7d

[redacted] identified HELEN GUREWITZ (nee [redacted] Mrs. MORTON SOBELL) as a member of the [redacted] CP in Washington, D. C., [redacted]

b7d

[redacted]

b7d

[redacted]

b7d

[REDACTED] b7d

"Morning Freiheit," issue of November 29, 1959, page 3, column 4-5, mentioned that HELEN SOBELL, wife of MORTON SOBELL, would be the guest speaker at an affair at 5745 North Fairhill Street on Thursday evening, December 10, 1959.

"The Worker", issue of December 6, 1959, page 15, column 5, announced that HELEN SOBELL would speak Thursday, December 10, 1959, at 8:30 p.m. at 5745 North Fairhill Street under the auspices of the PSC.

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that the PSC sponsored a public affair on December 10, 1959, at the residence of SARAH EPSTEIN, 5745 North Fairhill Street. Approximately 45 to 50 persons attended. PEARL CHERTOV, in charge of the PSC, presided as Chairman. The principal speaker was HELEN SOBELL who described a recent visit to her husband who is imprisoned in California. Mrs. SOBELL also spoke of other activities and campaigns initiated to free her husband. She mentioned that she had also appeared on various radio programs in order to speak out on behalf of the innocence of her husband. She asked for funds for lawyers and for literature. She stated that there was still hope for amnesty by Christmas and added that indications are that many influential people in America believe MORTON SOBELL to be innocent. She advised that the need to write letters to the President continues. b7d

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] those in attendance were also urged to send Christmas cards to MORTON SOBELL.

The following Confidential Informants advised on the dates indicated that the PSC sponsored a public meeting on December 10, 1959, at 5745 North Fairhill Street. These informants furnished substantially the same information as [REDACTED] regarding this meeting: b7D

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] b7d
[REDACTED] Informant advised that HELEN SOBELL was introduced at this affair and spoke briefly regarding her extensive traveling around the United States to collect money for attorney fees on behalf of her husband's, MORTON SOBELL, attempt to receive a commutation of sentence. She solicited the aid of those in attendance.

The PSSFC is characterized in the Appendix section of this report.

[REDACTED] b7d
Literature Distributed

[REDACTED] furnished the following items [REDACTED] b7d

1. Printed one-page letter of CSJMS captioned "A Letter to the White House, Executive Section, Proposal to Free MORTON SOBELL." This letter was dated May 10, 1959, addressed to "Dear Mr. President" and was signed "AARON KATZ, NY, NY."

2. One copy of a four-page tabloid captioned, "Today's Verdict in the Case of MORTON SOBELL", issue of July 1959. This item reflects it was published by the CSJMS, that it sells for 10¢ per copy and that the July 1959 issue was the fifth issue.

[REDACTED] furnished copies of the two items described above and furnished by [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] advised that AARON KATZ as of that date was the East coast organizer of the CSJMS. b2

PH T-23 advised on April 27, 1944, that AARON KATZ, prior to this date, had been a member of the CP for six years. According to the informant, KATZ in 1944 held CP Membership Book #31250.

[REDACTED] furnished the following items [REDACTED] b7d

1. Two copies of a printed letter, undated and unsigned, addressed to President EISENHOWER at the White House, urging the President to grant freedom to MORTON SOBELL during the holiday season. The informant advised that the above was distributed in Philadelphia earlier in December 1959.

2. [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] furnished the following items: b7d

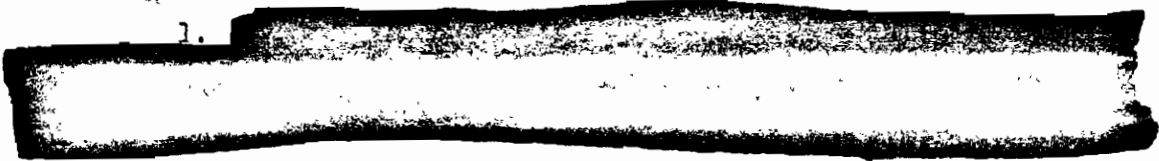
1. A reprint captioned, "A Wrong to be Righted" reprinted as a public service by the CSJMS, 940 Broadway, New York City.

2. A reprint captioned, "Justice on the Rocks" and issued by CSJMS. This was a book review on the book entitled, "The Judgment of JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG."

3. A reprint captioned, "The Sovereignty of Mexico in the Case of MORTON SOBELL", reprinted as a public service by the CSJMS. This item reflects that the above originally appeared in the April 23, 1957, issue of "Excelsior" a Mexico City newspaper.

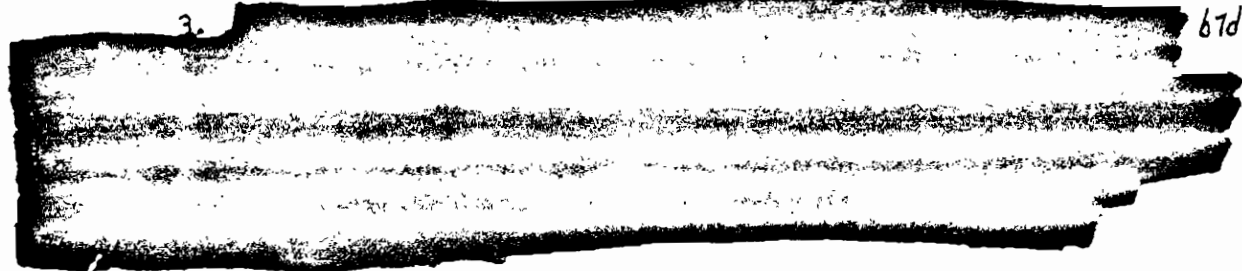
4. Appeal to President EISENHOWER requesting him to exercise executive authority either by granting a new trial to MORTON SOBELL or by granting executive pardon or commutation. Attached to this item was a list of names under the categories of judges, lawyers, ministers, rabbis, professors, physicians, writers and "other eminent signers" who have signed the "Appeal to the President."

[REDACTED] furnished the following items [REDACTED] b7d

1. 

b7d

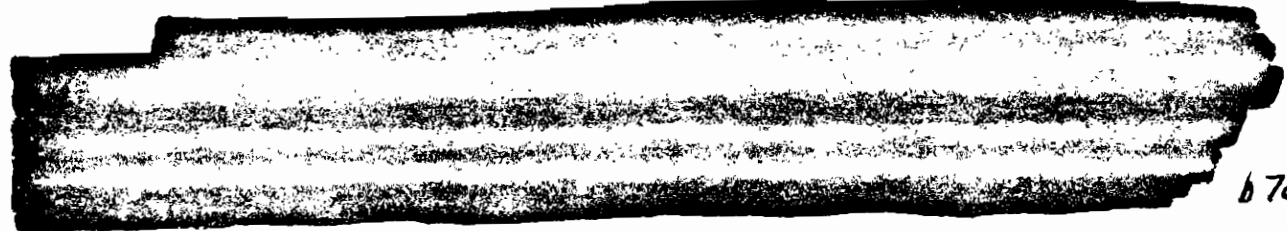
2. A two-page mimeographed paper which sets forth the text of an editorial which appeared in the St. Petersburg, Fla. "Times" on November 14, 1959. The editorial was captioned, "Who's Giving Away Secrets Now?" and states that Soviet performance in the field of missiles and space exploration has demonstrated conclusively that Russian science and technology can stand alone and did not need the assistance of United States secrets. This editorial urged that letters to the White House urging executive clemency should not be stopped.

3. 

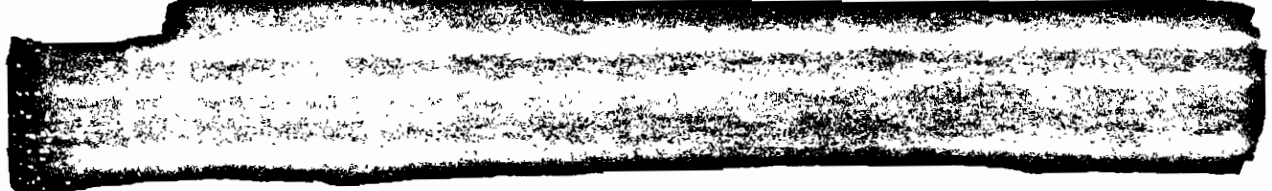
b7d

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY COMMITTEE TO
SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

A characterization of the Lower Bucks County Committee to Secure Justice for MORTON SOBELL is located in the Appendix section of this report.



b7d



b7d

PH 100-3782

[REDACTED] In regard to this [REDACTED] advised that clergymen were to be contacted and advised that NPTM [REDACTED] was available.

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

CHARACTERIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS

PH 100-37667

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case' . . . "

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications"
dated January 2, 1957, issued by the House Committee
on Un-American Activities, page 60.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the current name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The 1959-1960 Borough of Manhattan telephone directory lists the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" as being located at 940 Broadway, New York, New York.

PH 100-37667

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY COMMITTEE TO
SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] another source advised that FLEM SLOCC was then a member of the Communist Party [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED] this source advised that FRANK and GERTRUDE KROFF were then current members of the Communist Party [REDACTED]

b7D

b7D

HH 100-37667

MORNING FREIHEIT

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", revised and published as of 1/2/57 by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, documents the publication "Morning Freiheit" as follows:

"A 'Communist Yiddish daily.'"

(Attorney General Francis Biddle, Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, p. 7686.)

"The Freiheit has been one of the rankest organs of Communist propaganda in this country for almost a quarter of a century."

(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, p. 75.)

"NATIONAL GUARDIAN"

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, revised and published as of January 2, 1957, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., contains the following concerning the "National Guardian:"

- "1. 'Established by the American Labor Party in 1947 as a "progressive" weekly. *** Although it denies having any affiliation with the Communist Party, it has manifested itself from the beginning as a virtual official propaganda arm of Soviet Russia.'

"(Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 'Trial by Treason: The National Committee to Secure Justice for the ROSENBERGS and MORTON SOBELL,' August 25, 1956, p. 12.) "

PHILADELPHIA SOBELL COMMITTEE



67D

On April 14, 1953, [REDACTED] Division of Solicitations, Department of Public Instructions, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 812 Blackstone Building, Harrisburg, Pa., advised that by letter dated February 17, 1953, JEAN E. FRANKS, as Executive Secretary of the Philadelphia Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, Post Office Box 805, Philadelphia, Pa., had advised the Division of Solicitations that the Philadelphia Committee was an affiliate of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, and that the purpose of the local committee was to solicit money to be used to meet expenses in carrying on appeals in the Rosenberg Case and maintaining the Rosenberg children. 67D

Literature issued by the Committee on the dates indicated reflects the following variations of the names of the Philadelphia Committee which have been utilized:

- 2/11/53 Philadelphia Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, Post Office Box 805, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 10/14/53 Philadelphia Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg-Sobell Case, Post Office Box 805, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 10/19/53 Philadelphia Rosenberg-Sobell Committee, Post Office Box 805, Philadelphia, Pa.

7/8/54

Philadelphia Committee to Secure Justice
for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case,
Post Office Box 805, Philadelphia, Pa.

[REDACTED] a source advised that the Philadelphia Committee to
Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case was being disbanded because
of a lack of funds and a lack of activity on the part of the Committee. b7D

[REDACTED] this source advised that [REDACTED]
the Committee would be called the Philadelphia Sobell Committee. b7D

Another source advised [REDACTED] that the Philadelphia Sobell
Committee continues to operate as a local affiliate of the Committee to Secure
Justice for Morton Sobell. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PEARL CHERTOV is the Chairman of the Phila-
delphia Sobell Committee, and JEAN D. FRANTJIS takes a leading role in the
Planning Committee activities. b7D

A third source advised [REDACTED] that as of that date PEARL
CHERTOV was a current member of the Socialist Workers Party. b7D

CONFIDENTIAL

RH 100-37667

PHILADELPHIA SOCIAL SCIENCE
FORUM COMMITTEE (PSSFC)

[REDACTED]

The source stated the PSSFC was merely a paper organization, and this series of forums was organized by the District Education Commission (CPEPD) and had to be approved by the District Committee, CPEPD, before being put into effect. b7D

This source advised [REDACTED] that the PSSFC remained under the control of the District Education Commission, CPEPD. It was planned by RUBIN that a new series of forums would be conducted in the fall of 1959. b7D

[REDACTED]

b7D

- 22* -

CONFIDENTIAL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

100-37667

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Re: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR
MORTON SOBELL;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated and captioned as above at Philadelphia, Pa.

b7c

Confidential informants mentioned in referenced report have furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3915 DATE 2/19/60

CONSISTING OF 4 PAGES *of which*
Page 2

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains
information which would disclose an intelligence
source. This serial bears the Classification
Officers number ~~XXXX~~

AIRTEL

REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-388635)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-107421)(41)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR
MORTON SOBELL
IS - C

[REDACTED]

b1

The enclosed memorandum is classified confidential inasmuch as it contains information the disclosure of which would be of continuing value, whose identity should be protected.

① [REDACTED]

b1

JAL:mfd (41)
(7)

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

100-107421-3915

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

[REDACTED]

b7c

New York, NY
February 11, 1953

100-387835

Re: Committee to Study the Case of
Haroon Robell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

This memorandum is classified Confidential inasmuch as it was furnished by an informant, of continuing value, whose identity should be protected.

- 5 - Bureau (100-387835)
- 1 - Washington Field

- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- SA [REDACTED] b7C

b1

2/11/53

3915

100-107100-100
100-107100-100
100-107100-100

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell, the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case'"

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In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the current name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The 1959-1960 Borough of Manhattan telephone directory lists the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" as being located at 940 Broadway, New York, New York.

3-24-60

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

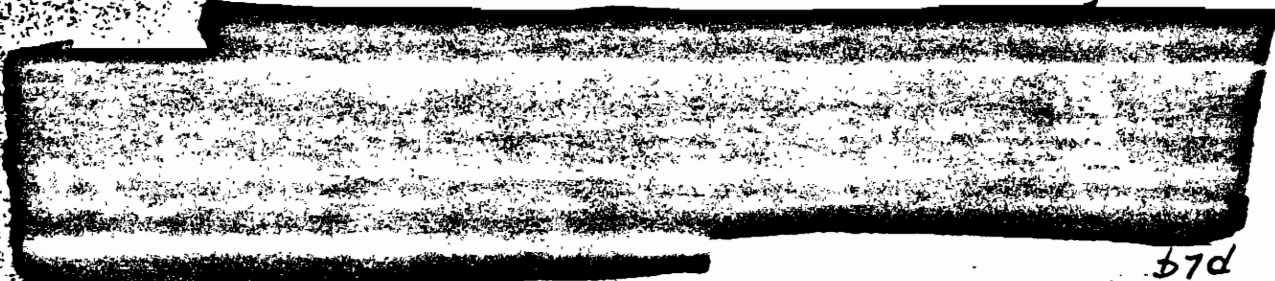
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387335)

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (100-12292)

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR
MORTON SOBELL
IS - C

OO - New York

Re New York airtel 1-13-60, concerning future
itinerary of HELEN SOBELL; Bureau airtel to Miami 1-13-60,
and Miami airtel to Director 1-29-60.



b7d

For the information of the Atlanta Office, the
Bureau plans to capitalize on any opportunity to counteract
the limited success HELEN and ROSE SOBELL have had among
certain legitimate civic organizations by neutralizing their
work through use of Bureau contacts to expose captioned
committee and its Communist connections. The Bureau has
instructed that confidential informants and sources be
alerted to determine her schedule and the identity of the

- 3 - Bureau (AM)(RM)
 - 2 - Atlanta (AM) (RM)
 - 1 - New York (Info) (RM) (100-107111)
 - 1 - Miami
- TCH:plm
(7)



100-107111-3916



b7c

NY 100-12292

groups that she plans to address, and that an extra close check of newspapers and press media be maintained for announcements concerning her travel and visits. Any concrete developments obtained from checks should be furnished by airtel to the Bureau.

HELEN SOBELL did not accompany her mother-in-law to Miami in this instance.

Detailed information concerning the visit of ROSE SOBELL to the Miami area will be set forth in the next report on captioned organization.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3918 DATE 2/26/60

CONSISTING OF 4 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains
information which would disclose an intelligence
source. This serial bears the Classification
Officers number ██████

4/27/80

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387836)

FROM: SAC, WFO (100-25474)

**COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MONTON SOBELL
IS - C; ISA OF 1950 CINAI
(OO:NY)**

Enclosed for the Bu are five copies, for LA one copy, and for NY two copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning a public meeting of captioned group in WFO on 2/26/60.

WF T-1 in the memorandum is [redacted] furnished information to SA [redacted] information filed [redacted]

b7d
b7c

WF T-2 is [redacted]

b7d

WF T-3 [redacted]

b7d

WF T-4 (S NY 1219-S*)

WF T-5 [redacted]

b7d

WF T-6 [redacted]

b7d

Although the 2/26/60, meeting in WFO was an open type meeting, the memorandum has been classified "Confidential" since vital informants were used in the memo to identify

- 3-Bureau (Encls. 5)
- 1-Baltimore (100-15241) (Encl. 1) (Info) (NY)
- 2-New York (100-107111) (Encls. 2)
- 1-WFO

CMG:mas
(7)

AIRTEL

FILE STRIPPED BY [signature] ON 5/31/72

100-107111-3920
[redacted]
b7c

WFO 100-25474

various persons in attendance as to CP connections. The data furnished by the following informants could reasonably result in identification of these informants of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof: [REDACTED]

b7D

WFO is disseminating copies of the attached memo locally to OSI, 4th District, ONI, FRNC, and G-2, MDZ.

SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

b7c

observed the individuals in attendance at this meeting mentioned in the letterhead memorandum.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 27, 1950

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR ROBERT SOBEL

A description of the above organization is attached.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on February 20, 1950, that on that date from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., a meeting was held at the Washington Fellowship House, 947 L Street, N. W., concerning the Morton Sobell case, which was attended by approximately 65 people. Gerhard Van Arkel, local attorney, was introduced as the first speaker by David W. Hall, Chairman, identified on the program as Social Order Committee Chairman, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends. Van Arkel stated that his opinion concerning this case was his own and that he knew the audience was not interested in it, but that he wanted to present certain facts concerning this matter that casts doubts upon Morton Sobell's guilt. He stated that the trial, itself, was held at the time of the Korean War in an atmosphere of hysteria created by former Senator Joseph McCarthy, and in a time when all felt that the Russians were not capable of producing an atomic bomb. He continued that Sobell should have been tried separately and not linked to the Rosenbergs. He stated that the trial itself lasted fourteen days and was tried by honest jurors, and was later reviewed by eminent jurors of the Second Court of Appeals. He stated that Justice Frank alone dissented, and this itself shows that a doubt can be cast on Sobell's guilt. However, he pointed out that the threat of the atomic bomb and the guilt of the Rosenbergs must certainly have swayed the jurors because of the atmosphere of the times and its resultant hysteria. He stated that if Sobell were to be tried today, away from this area of hysteria, and, solely on the facts of his own complicity, he would certainly be acquitted. He stated that the charge that Sobell was using various aliases while in Mexico certainly did not deter the Mexican authorities, in obvious cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from forcibly abducting him and holding

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR ETHEL ROSENBERG

his without indictment. He stated that another fact that casts great doubt is whether Sobell, having been informed by Max Elitcher, a self-confessed perjurer, that Elitcher was being followed by the FBI, would, in Elitcher's presence, leave the car in which he was riding with Elitcher, and which car was being followed by the FBI, and go alone to Rosenberg's room and give Rosenberg "what appeared to Elitcher to be a microfilm containing documents." Van Arkel continued that the sentence of 30 years would go to Sobell was quite apparently not commensurate with his guilt in this matter, and the deliberate sentencing of him to Alcatraz, where only hardened felons were incarcerated, was certainly a vindictiveness on the part of the government.

██████████ continued that following Van Arkel's speech, Scull, noted above, announced that he had received a telegram from Congressman Randall S. Hanson of the Tenth District of Indiana, stating that he was in sympathy with their cause and was preparing a bill to introduce into Congress requesting the release of Sobell. He stated that he also had a letter from Congressman William Coyne of Vermont, advising of his own sympathy with their cause. Scull then introduced the principal speaker of the evening, Helen Sobell, the wife of Morton Sobell.

██████████ continued that Helen Sobell stated that she spoke, not as Van Arkel or anyone else, but as the wife of a man who was not guilty, who had served ten years in jail from his thirty-third to his forty-fourth year. She stated that her husband was "brutally abused and brutally beaten," and held without indictment for a period of 49 days in kidnapped confinement while Roy Cohn, later to be the leader of Senator Joe McCarthy staff, attempted to get him to confess to a guilt that was not his, or to manufacture testimony of lies against the Rosenbergs. She continued that it was only after this period of 49 days when it was obvious to Cohn, that her husband would not give false testimony against the Rosenbergs, that his name was actually added to the list of co-conspirators. She urged those present to form a local committee in the nation's capital to help in this fight for her husband's release.

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

She stated that it was very important to have a committee in the nation's capital, and because local newspapers are prominent and could assist in giving her husband his release. She said that while no organization of such a committee would take place at this particular meeting, those interested in such a committee should leave their names and addresses, and they would be contacted in the near future. Mrs. Sobell stated there are three systems of action in connection with her husband's release, as follows:

1. Through the courts.
2. Through parole.
3. Through executive clemency.

She urged all in attendance to write personal letters to President Eisenhower requesting the release of her husband. Mrs. Sobell made an appeal for funds needed to operate the organization. A collection was held and it was announced that \$185 had been received.

██████████ obtained the following literature which was made available for all present:

1. A fourteen page pamphlet entitled "COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL," 940 Broadway (Entrance on 22nd Street), New York 10, New York, listing forty-three sponsors of this committee, which contained an appeal to the President of the United States, submitted by this committee for the period January 1, 1959, to January 1, 1960.
2. A one page appeal to President Eisenhower, also containing the list of above sponsors, on behalf of Sobell to be signed individually and mailed to the White House.
3. A reprint from the April, 1959, "Intercollegian," the Sixth Assembly of the Student Young Men's Christian Association - Young Women's Christian Association, concerning the case of Morton Sobell. This reprint handled as a public service by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell.

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MARTIN SOBELL

3. A copy of a letter printed in the "New York Times" issue of February 10, 1950, signed by Nathan Glazer, Sidney Hook, Irving Kristol, and Dwight Macdonald, dated February 9, 1950. Also reprinted by the above committee.

4. A reprint from "The Washington Post," dated February 12, 1950, captioned "MRS. OF HONORARY WILLIAM WALTERS HILL" by Marquis Childs. Also reprinted by this Committee.

5. A copy of the paper "Today's America" dated July, 1949, with banner: "Public Opinion Split in Urgent Appeal for Martin Sobell's Freedom or New French Notes American Vice Consulate After Independent Study of Trial."

6. "The Catholic Worker" issue of April-May, 1950, with article entitled "Time, Conscience, and the Sobell Case" on page two.

7. A pamphlet entitled "When Conscience Tolls" being a copy of "A Sermon delivered by Reverend Samuel A. Bright, Jr.," Minister of the Unitarian Church of Marin, meeting in the Tamalpais Centre Board's Club, Kentfield, California.

Special Agents (SAs) of the FBI observed the following individuals attend the above described meeting. These individuals are identified by informants and have furnished reliable information in the past, as to Communist Party (CP) connections.

INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED

Al and Sylvia Bernstein

Abel Blom

CP CONNECTIONS

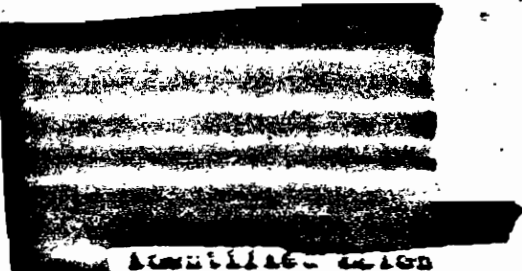
[REDACTED] identified Al and Sylvia Bernstein as CP members. b7d

[REDACTED] advised that Al was an individual who supports CP policies. b7d

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL~~

Mrs. Morton Sobell



... Association with
Gurewitz (Morton Sobell,
Mrs. Morton Sobell, as a
member of the Education
and Literature Committee
of the CP in Washington,
D. C., [redacted]

b7D

Ethel Reichard



b7D

The CP and CPA have both been designated by the
Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive
Order 10450.

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case'"

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FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

ROSENBERG /
SUBJECT SOBELL COMMITTEE

FILE NO. 100-107111

VOLUME NO. 92

SERIALS 3921

TO

3955

File No: 100-107111

Re: Rosenberg/Sobell Committee

Date: 1/78

(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3921	2/28/60	LA airtel to HQ	1	0	
3922	3/1/60	AT airtel to HQ	1	1	
3923	3/2/60	LA letter to HQ	1	0	
3924	3/2/60	SL airtel to HQ	1	0	
3925	3/3/60	HQ letter to NY	1	1	
3926	3/3/60	NY letter to WFO	5	0	
3927	2/29/60	WFO letter to NY and Informant report	1/2	-	NY FILE # 100-109849
3928	3/4/60	HQ letter to HQ	1	1	
3929	3/4/60	SA memo to file and informant report	1/2	-	NY FILE # 100-109849
3930	3/4/60	NY airtel to HQ	1	0	
3931	3/7/60	NY airtel to HQ	3	0	
3932	3/8/60	Cover sheet to informant report	1	0	

File No: 100-107111Re: Rosenberg/Sobell CommitteeDate: 1/78

(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3933	3/8/60	Cover sheet to informant report	1	0	
3934	3/8/60	Cover sheet to informant report	1	0	
3935	3/8/60	SA memo to file	2	0	
3936	No date	ATTACHMENT TO 3937	5	0	
3937	3/9/60	LA letter to HQ	1	0	
3938	3/9/60	NY airtel to HQ	4	3	
3939	3/11/60	NY letter to WFO	3	-	NY FILE # 100-109849
3940	3/11/60	NY letter to PH	1	0	
3941	3/11/60	MI letter to NY ^{and attachments}	23	22	
3942	3/14/60	SF letter to HQ	1	1	
3943	3/14/60	NY letter to HQ	8	-	NY FILE # 100-109849
3944	3/15/60	NY letter to SL	1	0	

File No: 100-107111

Re: Rosenberg Cabell Committee

Date:

1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3945	3/15/60	HQ letter to PH and attachments	1	-	BUFILE # 101-2483
3946	3/15/60	SL letter to HQ	15	-	NY FILE # 65-15348-2910
3947-A	3/15/60	SA memo to file	1	-	See NY # 100-109849
3947	3/15/60	PD report to HQ	9	9	
3948	3/16/60	SF letter to BS	1	1	
3949	3/16/60	NH airtel to HQ	2	0	
3950	3/16/60	SA memo to file	2	-	NY FILE # 100-109849
3951	3/17/60	HQ teletype to SL	1	0	
3952	3/17/60	PX report to HQ	27	26	
3952 A	3/17/60	NY letter to WFO	1	1	
3952 B	3/17/60	News Article from "Jewish Currents"	1	1	
3953	3/18/60	AL report to HQ	9	9	

File No: 100-107111

Re: Rosenberg/Sabell Committee

Date: 1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
3954	3/22/60	NY airtel to HQ	2	0	
3955	3/23/60	WFO report to NY	27	27	

100-107111

Section 92
Serials 3921-3955

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Serial 7100-387735

- 1pc*
- See also Nos. Sub A 4 General*
- Sub B City Notes*
- Sub C With Forwarding*
- Sub D Inventory Filed*
- Sub E Production of Inventory*
- Sub A 19 Aggravated Assault*
- Sub A When Sub (A) done*
- Given Memo first by Ellis*

*R. J. P. **
P. J. P.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3921 DATE 2-29-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

3/1/60

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387835)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (100-4953)
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL
IS - C
(OO: NEW YORK)

Reference is made to Miami airtel dated 2/24/60, which was received in the Atlanta Office on 2/26/60.

Through contacts had with the U. S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., on 2/29/60, it was ascertained, according to visitation records of subject MORTON SOBELL, that one ROSE SOBELL of 2400 Davidson Avenue, NYC, had visited MORTON SOBELL on 2/24/60.

In view of the date above information received indicating ROSE SOBELL might visit subject in Atlanta it was impossible to alert confidential informants and sources to determine her schedule and any activities she may have contemplated in the Atlanta area.

Records of the Penitentiary reflect that HELEN SOBELL last visited her husband in the latter part of January 1960, and it is anticipated that she will again visit her husband toward the latter part of March 1960.

Info copy of this communication is furnished Miami in view of outstanding investigation in this matter.

RUC.
3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Miami (100-12292)(Info)(RM)
1 - New York (100-107111)(Info)(RM)
1 - Atlanta
AFM:ebb
(6)

100-107111-3922
b7c
41

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3923 DATE 3-2-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number .

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3924 DATE 3-2-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York (100-107111)

DATE: March 3, 1960

✓ FROM : Director, FBI (100-387835)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Re Los Angeles airtel 2-29-60.

Advise by return mail additional details available to your Office concerning the forthcoming National Work Conference of Sobell Committees. You should alert confidential informants and sources concerning this activity and institute a program to afford coverage of this activity. Data developed through your coverage should be promptly submitted to the Bureau in memoranda form suitable for dissemination.

100-107111-3925 ✓

com

b7c

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3926 DATE 3-3-60

CONSISTING OF 5 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number ~~XXXX~~.

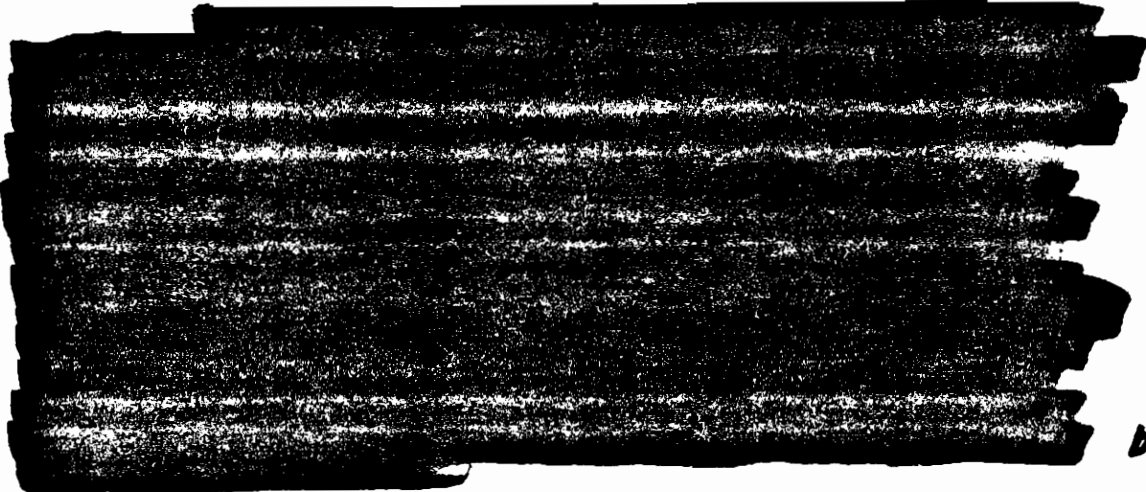
SAC, St. Louis (100-11726)

March 4, 1960


Director, FBI (100-387835)

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL
IS - C
ISA of 1950

Reurairtel 3-2-60.



b1



b1

2 - New York (100-107111)

2/10 - 43
2-2-60

100-107111-3928
MAY 7 1961

b7c

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3930 DATE 3-4-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3931 DATE 3-7-60

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3932 DATE 3-8-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3933 DATE 3-8-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3934 DATE 3-8-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

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FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3935 DATE 3-8-60

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3936 DATE NO DATE

CONSISTING OF 5 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains
information which would disclose an intelligence
source. This serial bears the Classification
Officers number [REDACTED].

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3937 DATE 3-9-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3938 DATE 3-9-60

CONSISTING OF 4 PAGES

OF WHICH PAGE 3

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number XXXX.

FBI

Date 3/9/60

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL REGULAR MAILING
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387835)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111)(#41)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL
IS-C
ISA, 50
OO:NY

ReLAairtel, 2/29/60, and Bulet, 3/3/60.

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

The enclosed memorandum is classified ~~confidential~~ inasmuch as it contains information furnished by an informant of continuing value whose identity should be protected.

- 3 - Bureau (100-387835) (Encls 5) (RM)
- 2 - Chicago (100-25530) (Encls 2) (RM)
- 2 - San Francisco (100-35117) (Encls 2) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (100-41648) (Encls 2) (RM)
- 2 - St. Louis (100-11726) (Encls 2) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-107111) Sec. #41

PHS: fcb
(13)

100-107111-3938

com JAM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York

March 9, 1960

100-387835

Re: Committee To Secure Justice
For Morton Sobell

A characterization of the Committee To Secure
Justice For Morton Sobell (CSJMS) is attached.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and 'then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case'"

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated January 2, 1957, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 60.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the current name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The 1959-1960 Borough of Manhattan telephone directory lists the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" as being located at 940 Broadway, New York, New York.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3940 DATE 3-11-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

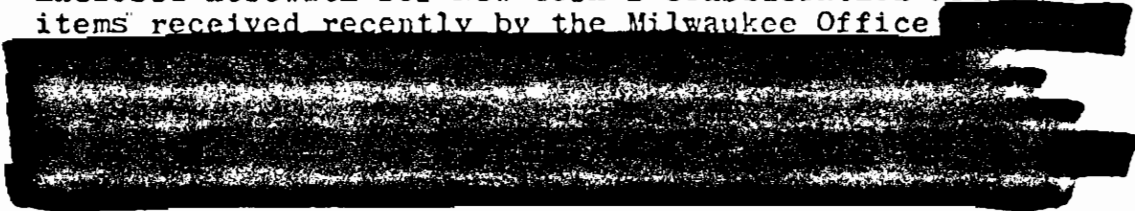
TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111)

DATE: 3/11/60

FROM : SAC, MILWAUKEE (100-11982)

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL, aka.,
IS - C

Enclosed herewith for New York's consideration are various items received recently by the Milwaukee Office



The material: 1. a letter to President Eisenhower signed by the co-chairman of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, HELEN and ROSE SOBELL, dated 1/5/60 and enclosing the Committee's "Report to Dwight D. Eisenhower,.....for the period of January 1, 1959 to January 1, 1960"; 2. a mimeographed letter dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on 2/26/60 addressed to "Dear Fellow American" and signed by seven Milwaukee clergymen, urging clemency for MORTON SOBELL and asserting that "evidence in recent years has cast further doubt on the entire case"; 3. a copy of a page from The Capital Times, a daily newspaper at Madison, Wisconsin, dated 6/28/56 and containing a book review by AUGUST DERLETH, an author at Sauk City, Wisconsin, entitled, "Minority Report: Rosenberg Case Book, John Wexley Author, An Exhaustive Work," a review of the book, "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," the review declaring that the "book.... despite its obvious bias, makes it manifest that the American public did not have at any time an adequate statement of all the facts pertinent to the case"; and 4. a reprint of a Milwaukee Journal editorial, 11/9/57, entitled, "How Come 'Exclusive Preview' of Case Still Before a Court?"

2-New York (100-107111) (RM) (Encls. 4)
1-Milwaukee (100-11982)

GVH: PAS
(3)

100-107111-3941

b7c

MI 100-11982

This material is forwarded to New York for whatever judgment it may warrant.

Milwaukee is taking no further action in this matter beyond the indexing of the names of the Milwaukee clergymen and that of AUGUST DERLETH.

AUGUST DERLETH

Rev. KENNETH SMITH, Hulburt Baptist Church

Rev. RAYMOND LEY, Zion Evangelical and Reform

Rev. M. J. BATTLE, Calvary Baptist Church

Rev. A. C. PITTMAN, Underwood Memorial Church

Rev. JOHN W. CYRUS, Unitarian

Rev. LUCIUS WALKER, Jr., Christian Center

Rabbi DAVID S. SHAPIRO, Anshe Sfard Synagogue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
February 26, 1960

Dear Fellow American:

We the undersigned, members of the clergy in Milwaukee, have reviewed the trial and sentence of Morton Sobell, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951 during the height of national hysteria.

We firmly believe that regardless of arguments for innocence or guilt of Morton Sobell, there can be no justification for the 30-year sentence imposed upon him on the flimsy evidence presented. Additional evidence in recent years has cast further doubt on the entire case. Documentary material is enclosed indicating Morton Sobell's innocence.

We are appealing to the President, asking long-overdue clemency, and urging you to do likewise.

All Americans with a sense of justice and concern for right will want to see this blot wiped out from our nation's history. It is still not too late to act in correcting one of the dark shadows hovering over American Jurisprudence.

We agree with Dr. Rheinhold Niebuhr and his co-signers who said "Commutation of Sobell's sentence would demonstrate our national capacity for disciplined and humane administration of justice". Thousands of other eminent Americans have added their voice to this appeal. Will you join them?

Sincerely,

(For Identification Only)

Rev. Kenneth Smith
Hulburt Baptist Church
Rev. Raymond Ley
Zion Evangelical & Reform
Rev. M. J. Battle
Calvary Baptist Church
Rev. A. C. Pittman
Underwood Memorial Church
Rev. John W. Cyrus
Unitarian
Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr.
Christian Center, Milwaukee
Rabbi David S. Shapiro
Anshe Sfard Synagogue

Rev. Kenneth Smith
Rev. Raymond Ley
Rev. M. J. Battle
Albert C. Pittman
John W. Cyrus
Lucius Walker Jr.
David S. Shapiro

Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

ALgonquin 4-9983

January 5, 1960

Mrs. Morton Sobell
Mrs. Rose Sobell
Chairmen

HONORARY SPONSORS (partial listing)

Rev. Gross W. Alexander
David Andrews
Rabbi J. S. Bass
Helen M. Beardsley
Leo Berman
Rabbi Samuel Bernstein
Harold A. Cranefield
Lloyd Donnell
Prof. Kermit Eby
Rev. John E. Evans
Rabbi Morris Fishman
Rev. Kenneth Ripley Forbes
Waldo Frank
Rev. C. Shubert Frye
Rev. Erwin A. Gaede
Maxwell Geismar
Rabbi Robert E. Goldberg
Prof. Erwin R. Goodenough
Rabbi Avery Grossfield
Judge Norval K. Harris
Dr. A. Eustace Haydon
Rev. Clarence D. Herriott
Russell Johnson
Rev. John Paul Jones
Rev. Joseph P. King
Ted LeBerthon
Dr. Milton Lester
Daniel G. Marshall
Dr. Leo Mayer
Milton Mayer
Louis F. McCabe
Rev. Peter McCormack
Dr. Gardner Murphy
Rev. Dryden Linsley Phelps
Prof. Dale Pontius
Howard B. Radest
Prof. Anatol Rapaport
Prof. Oscar K. Rice
Lord Bertrand Russell
Prof. Malcolm Sharp
Dr. D. R. Sharpe
Sidney Silverman, M.P.
Rev. Francis S. Tucker
Dr. Harold C. Urey
Mrs. Clara M. Vincent
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Eisenhower:

It is with a great sense of urgency that, on behalf of our committee, we transmit to you this report which has been prepared for your personal study concerning the case of Morton Sobell.

As Morton's wife and mother, we hope and pray that you will read this report of the public concern about his case during 1959.

Despite all of the suffering our family has endured, our faith that you will grant Morton Sobell a commutation of sentence gives us the courage to continue working to undo a terrible wrong.

It is our sincere wish that you might grant us an appointment to discuss this personally with you.

Very truly yours,

Helen Sobell *Rose Sobell*
Mrs. Morton Sobell Mrs. Rose Sobell
Co-Chairmen

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

A Report to
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Submitted by

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell

For the period of January 1, 1959 to January 1, 1960

MR. PRESIDENT:

Our committee, which has worked so arduously to right a grave wrong, has never been so hopeful as we find ourselves at the conclusion of 1959. The tremendous interest evoked by the case of Morton Sobell throughout the country during the past year renews our faith that under our nation's concern for fairness, the injustice done against Morton Sobell will be terminated. It was our expectation that you would choose to release Mr. Sobell during the Christmas holidays by commuting his sentence to the nearly 10 years he has already endured. Unhappily, this has not been done. This therefore means more time in prison for Mr. Sobell, further hardship for his family, new efforts on the part of his attorneys to prevail in the courts, and further work of the good people throughout our land whose conscience will not rest until Morton Sobell either is a free man or has a new trial.

We wonder to what extent the editorials in leading publications, the letters and statements by eminent Americans, and the letters from citizens in many walks of life have been brought to your direct attention. It is difficult to believe that if you were personally aware of the multitude of appeals in this case, as well as the facts and circumstances which have led to such strong feelings, you would not yourself be moved to a desire to bring this case to an honorable conclusion. It is in this spirit that we submit this report to you in the hope that you will give it your personal attention, that you will read the enclosures, and that you will look further into the situation. If our country's clergymen, educators, community leaders, scientists and other citizens believe there is an injustice to be rectified, it follows that our President will naturally have an even deeper concern about such a tragic condition as Morton Sobell's continued imprisonment under a 30-year sentence.

The Verdict of Eminent Educators

Because this case has so troubled the public conscience, a group of most prominent individuals in American education established an independent body for the purpose of making a thorough study of the Morton Sobell trial. After a long inquiry, the group issued its findings in February, 1959, and the resulting recommendation that Morton Sobell's sentence should be commuted. This independent study was made by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology at the Union Theological Seminary, New York City; John C. Bennett, Dean and Professor of Ethics and Theology at the Union Theological Seminary; Edmond Cahn, Professor of Law at New York University Law School; Gerhard O. W. Mueller, Associate Professor of Law at New York University Law School; Dr. Daniel Day Williams, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Union Theological Seminary; Paul Ramsey, Professor of Religion at Princeton University, and Jerome Nathanson, Administrative Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. Appraising the Sobell case both legally and morally, this group joined in the following statement:

"The undersigned are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 1, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

"Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

"This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

"1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.

"2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed

to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.

"3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.

"4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.

"5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom."

You will note that the above statement takes no position on whether Morton Sobell is innocent or guilty. Even without going into this question, the conclusion is that Morton Sobell should be released. Other eminent educators, both in this country and abroad, are convinced that Morton Sobell is an innocent man, as he has asserted. Recently two of the world's most distinguished philosophers, Lord Bertrand Russell of England, and Dr. Martin Buber of Israel, joined in sending the following statement to you on December 1, 1959:

"Convinced of the innocence of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty year sentence on charges which to many legal authorities appear flimsy, to say the least,

"We, the under-signed, of independent political views and in the interest of justice and humanity only, beg you to exercise your Presidential prerogative of clemency and return Morton Sobell to his family."

On June 19, 1959, three noted educators addressed a public meeting of 1,000 persons in New York City to give their views on the case. Professor Thomas Emerson of the Yale University Law School carefully analyzed the Sobell case. He cited the kidnapping of Sobell from Mexico, the flimsy nature of the evidence against him, the mingling of his case with atomic conspiracy charges with which he was not connected, the severity of the sentence, and the cruelty of Alcatraz, at which he was imprisoned some 5½ years. Professor Emerson concluded: "Living and glorying in the democratic tradition, we cannot remain silent."

Dr. Horace Kallen, Research Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York and author of many important books, reviewed the injustice and said, "It becomes necessary especially to address the President of the United States." Professor Murray Branch of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, called what happened to Morton Sobell "a manifestation of tyranny." He said: "If the interests of the nation and of humanity are to be served, every instance of tyranny must be recognized for what it is and expunged from the common life. To this end it is in order to call for a reopening of the case or clemency for Morton Sobell."

Dr. Paul Lehmann, distinguished theologian of the Harvard Divinity School, and Dr. Gardner Murphy of the famed Menninger Foundation at Topeka, Kansas, called attention to the Sobell case in addresses to the Sixth Assembly of the Student YMCA-YWCA. Further expanding on his remarks, Dr. Lehmann wrote in a statement: "It is these rising doubts which lift the Sobell case above the level of the processes whereby injustice can be legally redressed, and transfer it to a level of symbolic significance of the sanity, stability, and integrity of the common life in the United States. Dr. Lehmann titled his statement: "Morton Sobell: Symbol of the Christian's Concern for Justice."

There are many other educators who have spoken on the case throughout the country. The list is long and honorable and each day new persons show their concern. Among those who thus far have joined in appeals to you for a commutation of sentence are the following:

Prof. James Luther Adams, Harvard University
Milnor Alexander, Bryn Mawr College
Prof. David Blackwell, University of California
Prof. Derk Bodde, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. E. H. Brunquist, Prof. Emeritus, University of Colo.
Dr. Ephraim Cross, City College of New York
Dr. Burris Cunningham, University of California
Prof. John J. DeBoer, University of Illinois
Prof. Lloyd H. Donnell, Illinois Institute of Technology
Dr. Huntley Dupre, Macalester College
Prof. Kermit Eby, University of Chicago
Ada M. Field, Guilford College
Prof. Erwin R. Goodenough, Yale University
Dr. Eustace Haydon, Prof. Emeritus, University of Chicago
Prof. Carroll P. Hurd, Westminster College
Dr. Sumner M. Kalman, Stanford University
Prof. Isaac Kolthoff, University of Minnesota

J. M. Kuehne, Prof. Emeritus, University of Texas
Prof. Rowland E. Logan, Bard College
Prof. Gerhard Loose, University of Colorado
Dr. Philip Morrison, Cornell University
Prof. Francis M. Myers, University of Denver
Dr. Robert Reid Newell, Stanford University
Prof. Victor Paschkis, Columbia University
Prof. Linus Pauling, Pasadena Institute of Technology
Prof. George W. Platzman, University of Chicago
Prof. Dale Pontius, Roosevelt University in Chicago
Prof. Anatol Rappaport, University of Michigan
Prof. Oscar K. Rice, University of North Carolina
Prof. Harry R. Rudin, Yale University
Prof. Louise Pettybone Smith, Prof. Emeritus, Wellesley
College
Prof. Sidney J. Socolar, University of Chicago
Prof. Julian Sturtevant, Yale University
Dr. Harold C. Urey, University of California
Dr. Frank Weymouth, Los Angeles, California
Prof. H. H. Wilson, Princeton University
Arthur E. Woodruff, University of Chicago
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth, University of Utah.

Appeals by the Clergy

Perhaps the most eloquent statement in Morton Sobell's behalf comes from the clergyman who knew him most intimately, The Reverend Peter McCormack, who was Protestant Chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there. Reverend Mr. McCormack, convinced that Morton Sobell is an innocent man, has this year sent the following letter to ministers throughout the country:

"During my period of service at Alcatraz, I came into close contact with all of the prisoners. I feel satisfied that I can evaluate human character quite accurately.

"Through the years of my association at Alcatraz with Morton Sobell, I became more and more impressed with his innocence. This led me to make a studied investigation of his record at the prison as well as the trial record of the Rosenberg-Sobell case. The more I studied the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. I feel so keenly about this case, and to state it frankly, somewhat ashamed that the courts of our land could be so influenced by public opinion fed by the hysteria of the McCarthy era, that I have set out in an address under the title 'ALCATRAZ WAS MY PARISH' my evaluation of the man and the injustice perpetrated upon him by detaining him still in Atlanta Penitentiary.

"He is a man of fine intellect, of noble character, healthy-minded, a loyal American, a devoted husband and father, a noble son of humble but noble family. Yet the record still shows that here is a man, falsely accused,

cruelly treated, sentenced on the flimsy testimony of a self-confessed perjurer and still suffering within prison walls.

"The cry for justice has sounded many times through the centuries from the time of Amos the Prophet down to the present. To me no cry has had such merit to it than the cry for justice for Morton Sobell. I am satisfied if the Clergy of this land, whose mission it is to 'seek justice and judgment' would acquaint themselves with this case, the relentless pressure of that segment of public opinion would compel our courts to re-open the case, freeing it from perjury, politics and prejudice, and in the light of honor and truth restore Morton Sobell to his rightful place as an American citizen, a man vindicated by the weight of public opinion and the justice and honor that we are entitled to expect to emanate from the courts of our land."

Clergymen of all faiths have been responding to this plea and many hundreds have affixed their names to an independent clergy appeal that has been circulated. Reverend Mr. McCormack is making every effort to arrange a personal appointment with you to discuss the Sobell case in behalf of those who are appealing for a commutation of sentence

Just recently we received in our office a copy of a letter which was sent to you from an American clergyman living abroad, Reverend Oscar A. Guinn, Jr., of the Wesley Methodist Church in Singapore. Reverend Mr. Guinn, who mentions that he was held by the Communists in China for 15 months, wrote as follows:

"Dear President Eisenhower,

"As an American living abroad, I want you to know how very pleased we have been with your handling of numerous international incidents. Sometime we are more interested in international commitments and events than some of our families who live within the confines of the States. We realize the tremendous impact of the Communist movement on people abroad and desire on all occasions to prove to the friends we have here that America truly believes what it is saying.

"Recently, there has come to my desk some literature concerning the case of a Mr. Morton Sobell. I had only heard the name in connection with the Rosenbergs. So little information had come to me regarding this case, that I had not known that they were tried together, but it seems on different grounds. I began an attempt to learn more about this man.

"I read some of our religious journals - both Protestant and Roman Catholic - and found that without exception they were urging a new trial, or pardon. Some men, whose integrity I cannot doubt were most vocal in their requests.

I was held by the Communists for 15 months in China, where we did serve, and we certainly do not have any love for the Communist movement. But, I have become convinced that this man, Morton Sobell, was not closely connected with the movement, and certainly not with the crime for which he has been charged. I am convinced that he was sentenced during the terrible days of hysteria built-up by McCarthy, and it is about time that we began to undo some of the tremendous harm done in that period. We must condemn those guilty of betraying our country, but I am convinced that this man did not have a fair trial.

"I, therefore, hope that you will seriously consider this miscarriage of justice and grant him a pardon, or at least, a new trial, where we can see clearly the true picture. Your fairness and honesty would certainly call for this.

"In appreciation and admiration,

"Oscar A. Guinn, Jr."

Some clergymen, moved by a desire to enlist the aid of others in the Sobell case, have discussed the matter in sermons to their congregations. We enclose the copy of one such sermon delivered on April 12, 1959, by Reverend Samuel A. Wright, Jr., of California. Other ministers and rabbis have sent mailings of information on the case to their congregations, with requests that they further study the case and communicate with you. Reverend Erwin A. Gaede of Los Angeles went on a speaking tour through the Mid-West, addressing gatherings on the Sobell case, and meeting with ministers, rabbis, and community leaders, and with representatives of the press. The Phoenix Council of Churches has as a body requested a further study of the Sobell case.

Surely the collective voice of leading American clergymen pointing to the immorality of the 30-year sentence against Morton Sobell must be carefully considered.

Discussion in Publications

THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY, leading Protestant Weekly, wrote on April 15, 1959, in an editorial: "Dr. Niebuhr and his cosigners assert that commutation of Sobell's sentence would demonstrate our national capacity for disciplined and humane administration of justice. We agree with them and add our voice to their petition for justice tempered with mercy."

THE INTERCOLLEGIAN, magazine of the student YMCA-YWCA, in its April, 1959, issue published the statement of the Dr. Niebuhr group and recommended that all student Christian Association groups study this case.

THE SOCIAL QUESTIONS BULLETIN of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, in an editorial in its December, 1959, issue, said that "our nation, and its libertarian reputation, can only gain if the President either commutes Morton Sobell's long and hard sentence, or grants him the privilege of a new trial in today's more dispassionate atmosphere."

THE PHOENIX JEWISH NEWS reprinted an editorial published in the Portland OREGONIAN calling for a re-examination of the case.

THE CATHOLIC WORKER, in an editorial titled "Time, Conscience and the Sobell Case," published in its April-May, 1959, issue, recommended that "Catholics and persons of good will of all faiths" work in Morton Sobell's behalf, and concluded: "Catholics are obliged to regard Morton Sobell as belonging to the soul of the Church although not a member of the body. Therefore, he is our brother, and we can no more exclude him from our love than Christ does from His. And what has happened to him can happen to any of us, depending on which way the winds of the next national hysteria blow."

CHRISTIANITY AND CRISIS, in its issue of June 22, 1959, published an editorial recommending a commutation of sentence.

In the book REDEDICATION TO FREEDOM, Benjamin Ginzburg, Former Research Director for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, pointed to the kind of hysteria existing at the time of the Sobell trial and raised some of the questions which exist on the part of many who have studied the matter.

Since the trial of Morton Sobell, there have been many statements similar to the above. We wish you could personally inspect our clipping files of the many articles written about the case in newspapers and periodicals, both in this country and abroad. These include editorials from the Portland OREGONIAN, asking for a re-examination of the case and likening the Sobell situation to that of Sacco and Vanzetti, and from the Milwaukee JOURNAL, criticizing the handling of this case by the Justice Department. They include appeals for re-examination of the case, or a commutation of sentence, by such columnists as Jack Scott, writing in the VANCOUVER SUN, Harry Barnard in the Chicago DAILY NEWS, W.K. Kelsey in the Detroit NEWS, Judith Robinson in the Toronto TELEGRAM, and the late J.V. McAree in the Toronto GLOBE AND MAIL. There are expressions of doubt as to Morton Sobell's trial and sentence in book reviews, journals of many of the nation's leading law schools, and in letters to the editor of important newspapers by noted Americans. Perhaps you have read some of these letters printed in the Washington POST AND TIMES HERALD. Many books have been written with respect to the case and have been read by thousands of Americans, in addition to being favorably reviewed here and abroad. One of the foremost of these books is a study of the case written by Professor Malcolm Sharp of the University of Chicago Law School, with a foreword by Dr. Harold C. Urey, the Nobel Prize scientist, who helped develop the atomic bomb. Both Professor Sharp and Dr. Urey are convinced that Morton Sobell is an innocent man. There have been many urgent statements on the case made by reviewers and individuals who have read the book by John Wexley presenting documentation to prove that perjured testimony was used at the trial.

After reading this book, one of the most distinguished journalists of our time, the late Elmer Davis, who so effectively headed the Office of War Information during World War II, issued a statement saying that he could not believe the prosecution witnesses.

Participation by the Public

Never before has there been so much public participation in efforts to secure justice for Morton Sobell as can be reported for the year 1959.

In part this is reflected in the newspaper coverage of appeals on the case. When Mrs. Morton Sobell made a trip to the West Coast this summer, for example, her appeals were reported at length in the newspapers of Seattle, Portland, cities in California, in Phoenix, and in Houston. Interviews with her were broadcast on leading television stations, including such major programs as a two-part discussion of the case on ABC Television in Los Angeles, and an interview by the Canadian Broadcasting Company. This interest has existed throughout the country, including in Atlanta, where Morton Sobell has been imprisoned, and in New York, where the Sobell family resides. Mrs. Sobell was heard on the case with prosecutor Roy Cohn on radio station WMCA in New York. She was interviewed at length in a forum by Station WBAI-FM in New York. In California a chain of AFL-CIO newspapers brought a discussion of the case to thousands of union members.

There have been forums at universities, discussions in churches, meetings in public halls, luncheons and dinners at which the case was discussed, and countless numbers of gatherings at the homes of individuals who invited friends to join in ways they could help make their feelings known. Our Committee has received requests from law professors, students, and others for copies of the complete trial transcript, which we have published.

Judging from copies our Committee has received of letters mailed to the White House and to the Justice Department, many, many individuals must be expressing themselves daily as to their conviction that Morton Sobell should be released.

More and more individuals have asked to work with our Committees in cities across the land. On the West Coast, a regional Sobell Committee was formed as a result of the intensified interest in cities in the West. An Eastern regional Committee was formed and is growing rapidly.

We are both proud and encouraged that during the past year an eminent group of individuals have become Honorary Sponsors of our Committee. We refer you to our letterhead for a partial listing of these persons who have in this way shown their concern for the Morton Sobell case.

In addition, we must mention to you the selfless devotion with which people in many cities have borne the costs of our work. There are no huge contributions which sustain us. We rely on the

it is the dollars of people who give of themselves to help our country right a wrong that enable our Committee to print its material, pay the cost of attorneys, and do all of the work necessary to acquaint the public with the facts.

New Legal Appeals

During the past year, attorneys for Morton Sobell have been doing research on new points of law. They intend early in 1960 to go to court with appeals for a new trial.

However, you are aware of the length of time it takes to process each legal point. Further, as happens under our judicial system, cases are usually decided on technical points of law. As important as such points are to our national well-being, they frequently do not get to the heart of the truth or falsity of a given situation. Thus it was possible for proof that Morton Sobell was kidnapped from Mexico to go unanswered. Instead of the prosecution stating frankly what the truth was, it chose to evade an answer rather than submit to an open and full hearing. The issue was avoided on technical grounds without the facts ever being examined at a hearing.

We point out that no court, other than the sentencing court, has ever examined the truth or falsity of the evidence. The higher courts have not gone into this. The United States Supreme Court has never reviewed any aspect of Morton Sobell's case. The Department of Justice, instead of eagerly seeking a new trial at which all of the questions could be aired, has sought with great tenacity to protect the conviction.

This year, Mr. President, when you spoke to your Civil Rights Commission, you made the point that you based your hopes on the moral law rather than on the statutory law, because, you said, "I happen to be one of those people who have very little faith in the ability of the statutory law to change the human heart or eliminate prejudice." The case of Morton Sobell, in addition to being one processed according to the statutes of our country, raises many moral issues which cannot be obliterated by the words "appeal denied." It is for such situations that the traditional power of Executive Clemency has been provided for our country. The moral issues in the Sobell case, which have not been resolved in the court, require this Executive action.

Morton Sobell may yet prevail in court and win a new trial. However, the record of this case is such that each additional day he suffers in prison is another day of unwarranted suffering. It is for this reason, together with many others, that so many people look to you to end this ordeal now.

The Changing Times

What a different atmosphere we have in our country at the close of 1959 than we did in 1951 when Morton Sobell was convicted! At that time, in the midst of the Korean War, there was such tension that the public was ready to condemn anyone even accused of being involved in espionage. A judge could sentence a man like Sobell to 30 years on the word of a single witness who had admitted committing perjury, and on a record which led Dr. Harold C. Urey to comment after reading the trial record: "I don't know what Morton Sobell is even supposed to have done."

Today scientists and publications are commenting on the manner in which our country went overboard in its fears about espionage and in its appraisal of the relationship between espionage and world affairs, such as the development of the atomic bomb in Russia. We believe an editorial in the St. Petersburg, Fla., TIMES of Nov. 14, 1959, expresses this change in our country's attitudes. We quote this editorial in full:

"WHO'S GIVING AWAY SECRETS NOW?"

"Five American scientists, two of them government employes, have just returned from Moscow, where they spent a week with Russian scientists discussing ways and means of improving a system for a two-way flow of technological and scientific information.

"A few years ago the announcement of any such plan would have had the professional Red alarmists of the nation up in arms over our 'giving away secrets' to the Russians.

"There has been no such outcry upon this occasion. Nor is there likely to be--for a very good reason. Ever since the first sputnik, and especially with the magnificent accomplishment of photographing the far side of the moon, it has been all too evident that if there are any secrets to be given away, Soviet scientists probably have a larger supply of them than we do.

"MOST SCIENTISTS AGREE that had there never been a Klaus Fuchs, a Julius Rosenberg or Morton Sobell, or a single case of scientific treason on this side of the Iron Curtain, by this time it wouldn't have made a shadow of difference in the balance of power between ourselves and the Russians.

"Soviet performance in the field of missiles and space exploration has demonstrated conclusively that Russian science and technology doesn't have to get any secrets from us to be able to more than hold its own.

"Meantime, because there hasn't been a much freer exchange of information between ourselves and the Russians,

both of us have been injured. Such is the nature of scientific and technological development that, in effect, the whole is equal to more than the sum of its parts.

"That is to say, 1,000 scientists and technicians who pool information can progress far more rapidly than two groups of 500 who exchange no data. In our own case, we have compounded this folly by often forcing our own scientists, in the name of security, to work in small, practically air-tight 'cells.'

"IF, HAVING CONCLUDED that we have more to gain than to lose by exchanging information with the Soviet Union, logically the working conditions of our own scientists should be bettered by doing away with many of the restrictive and silly measures preventing them from comparing notes with each other.

* * *

"Certainly one of the most important by-products mankind can hope to gain by an easing of the cold war tensions might be a worldwide pooling of scientific and technical knowledge.

"There are so many hundreds of developments for making the lot of man infinitely happier and healthier and more secure which are on the very threshold of realization that, if the scientific brains of the world were given a chance to tackle them collectively, the second half of the 20th Century could be the most fruitful years in all history.

"Being denied such treasures is a frightful price to pay for a 'security' which the inexorable revelations of time have shown to be almost altogether mythical."

In this new atmosphere it is doubtful whether Morton Sobell could have ever been convicted on the meagre testimony against him, let alone condemned to 30 years.

The Family of Morton Sobell

One day we hope you will have the opportunity to personally meet Mrs. Morton Sobell, and Mr. Sobell's mother, Mrs. Rose Sobell. We know you would find them to be representative of the best qualities traditionally found in the American people. With unequalled devotion, they have worked day and night to help bring an end to Morton Sobell's imprisonment. They know he is innocent. They know he is a good man. They know he can be a credit to our country when he is released and permitted to resume his work as a scientist. Even in prison he continues his studies. From his cell, through the letters he is allotted and through the monthly visits, he continues to fill responsibilities of husband and father. If you were to read his letters, you would see the love, care and intelligence with which he gives guidance to his wife and children to help them through their years alone. In prison,

too, his conduct has been exemplary, in keeping with his responsible character, and he has made worthwhile contributions to the life and work of the prison. You would also take pleasure at meeting Morton Sobell's son, who has faith in his father and is growing up with the deep longing, and the urgent need, of having his father home again. So it would also be if you were to meet Mr. Sobell's daughter who has distinguished herself in college and is now beginning to make a place for herself in the world. It is one of the great personal tragedies of the decade that this family is still suffering because of the remaining wrongs of the McCarthy era which have yet to be undone.

Morton Sobell's mother has spent much time in Washington this year trying to see you personally. She has come repeatedly to the White House gate, but has not met with favorable results. She has written formally for an appointment. We wonder whether you even know personally that she wants to talk with you. If so many other Americans have been deeply impressed with the courage and integrity of the Sobell family, might you not also be so impressed if you had the opportunity to judge the situation for yourself?

Concern in Washington

Much time has been spent by persons interested in the case talking in Washington with members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Letters have been coming to them from their constituents, and we know of many instances in which members of Congress have raised the case with the Justice Department and have written their constituents of their concern. The late Senator William Langer felt so deeply about this case that he spoke on a public platform at Carnegie Hall in New York to pledge an effort in Washington to obtain justice for Morton Sobell, and his remarks about the atmosphere at the time of the trial and sentencing can be found in the Congressional record.

There is this concern in Washington because the case is not only one which calls for Executive action. It is one which interests all three branches of government. There is concern by legislators as representatives of their constituents who want to see justice done, and as individuals with a desire to see that the laws of this land are not abused by prosecutors more bent on obtaining a conviction than on seeing justice done. The judicial branch is concerned because of the many questions of fairness of the trial which have been raised.

Because of this interest, we are sending copies of this report to the members of the Senate and House, and also to the United States Attorney General.

Summary of Reasons for Executive Action

The many people who have been appealing in Morton Sobell's behalf have given varied reasons for their actions. They include the following facts:

1. The trial was held in the midst of the tension of the Korean War. Not only did it take place when McCarthyism was at its height, but one of the prosecutors was Roy Cohn, who rose to become McCarthy's aid partly as a result of the notoriety he received in this trial.
2. The United States Supreme Court has never reviewed the case or passed upon the merits of the trial below.
3. Morton Sobell was not accused of atomic espionage.
4. Judge Jerome Frank of the U.S. Court of Appeals stated that Morton Sobell should have had a new trial because his case should have been separated from the atomic espionage conspiracy accusations against the Rosenbergs.
5. Only one witness gave any testimony connecting Morton Sobell with the conspiracy to commit espionage charge.
6. This witness, Max Elitcher, was tainted. He admitted on the witness stand that he had been guilty of perjury on another matter, that the FBI knew about his perjury, and that he was testifying in hopes that he would not be prosecuted. He never was. His was accomplice testimony, generally regarded as weak or suspect.
7. Elitcher's testimony was uncorroborated. It was replete with contradictions, inconsistencies, and implausibilities.
8. The credibility of the witness against Sobell has never been examined by a higher court.
9. No specific overt acts were listed against Sobell in the indictment.
10. It was not claimed in the trial that Sobell ever gave or received any classified information.
11. The Appeals Court at one point alluded to the "wholly reprehensible" conduct of the prosecution, and indicated that a new trial would have been justified had the defense objected in time.
12. The kidnapping of Morton Sobell and his family from Mexico by the prosecution resulted in prejudicial stories in the press, and was used by the prosecution to prejudice the atmosphere at the trial.

13. The hysteria of the time placed an undue burden on Morton Sobell and his attorneys. It was impossible for the attorneys to learn what Morton Sobell was accused of doing in order to prepare a defense. At the trial itself, the attorneys were faced with the choice of putting Morton Sobell on the stand in an inflamed atmosphere, or resting on his plea of innocence according to Constitutional guarantees. The fact that to this day prosecutor Roy Cohn holds that not taking the stand indicated Sobell's guilt is evidence of how the rightful use of Constitutional guarantees can be misinterpreted in moments of extreme tension.
14. The 30-year sentence against Sobell is far out of proportion. Even persons accused of treason in wartime, acting on behalf of enemy powers, have been accorded far less severe sentences.
15. The judge based his harsh sentencing policy on the premise that Russia obtained the atomic bomb because of espionage. Today scientists, even conceding some help through espionage, say this was a distorted and harmful illusion that prevented our country from having a true picture of Russia's scientific capabilities. Morton Sobell, although not even accused of atomic espionage, was victimized by the attitudes of the time. Today, the atmosphere has changed, yet he remains a prisoner of that era.
16. Law journals which have studied the case have indicated that Sobell did not receive justice. No law review has held that Sobell's sentence was just.
17. Many authorities who have studied the case are convinced, not only that the trial or sentence were unfair, but that Morton Sobell is an innocent man, as he maintains.
18. When so many individuals and publications in our country raise basic questions about such an important case, these voices must be respected. The fact that such widespread doubt has been raised is in itself an urgent argument for Morton Sobell's release through Executive action. It is our tradition that where there are doubts, such questions must be resolved to the benefit of the individual, not the prosecution.
19. Acting positively in this case would help to rectify wrongs done in the McCarthy era, and be a strong re-affirmation to the world of our country's dedication to the high ideas of justice, honor, and compassion.

Conclusion

Mr. President, we urge with all our hearts that you give this case a personal examination. We urge that you please listen to the voice of educators, clergymen, writers, and editors representing the American people. Whatever arguments there may be regarding the innocence or guilt of Morton Sobell, the fairness or unfairness of the trial, there can be no moral justification for the 30-year sentence imposed upon him on the flimsy testimony presented. The only basis for such a sentence was the passion of the time in which he was tried. Certainly he and his family have suffered more than enough. Certainly our country has the greatness to correct an injustice rather than compound it by continuing to imprison a man who has been wronged. We appeal to you to end this ordeal by commuting Morton Sobell's sentence to the time he has served.

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway
New York 10, N.Y.

Rosenberg Case Book
 John Wexley Author
 An Exhaustive Work
 by AUGUST BERLETH

Minority Report

THE GUILT AND THE GUILTY:—In retrospect, the case of the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell raises some provocative and disturbing questions. John Wexley, who is admittedly partisan on the side of the defense, has written an exhaustive book of some 672 pages about the case under the title of **THE JUDGMENT OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG** (Cameron & Kahn, \$8), a book which, despite its obvious bias, makes it manifest that the American public did not have at any time an adequate statement of all the facts pertinent to the case—not alone because many of those facts never reached the press by design, not alone because the evidence on which conviction was obtained was questionable, to say the very least, but also because the defense of the Rosenbergs and Sobell was far too involved in Communist propaganda to do its best for the defendants.

The Rosenbergs dead were of far more use to the Communists than the Rosenbergs alive, and the government was too involved in its witch hunt to be as impartial as justice demands.

Mr. Wexley reconstructs all the events preceding the trial. He gives full sketches of the principals and the witnesses, including that self-confessed liar, and ex-Communist, Harry Gold. He details the trial. It is possible, finally, to throw out all Mr. Wexley's inferences, theories, and conclusions, and you are still left with the uneasy feeling, expressed by atomic scientist Harold Urey, that the conviction "failed to meet the standards of American justice." Moreover, it seems clear that Morton Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in prison, ought to have a retrial, one in which the testimony against him ought to be examined with the greatest precision.

One of the puzzles of our time is the willingness of the federal government to accept as bona fide the testimony of confessed liars, who have professed themselves reformed Communists, even over that of honest men

and women who have never fallen for the Communist line. That is only one of the puzzling aspects of the Rosenberg - Sobell case, for the evidence given by Gold and Eltcher, for instance, is incredible on the face of it, and assumes an ever worse aspect in the light of the past of these two witnesses.



Berleth

In the white heat of cold-war years' prejudice, it was impossible to look upon the case dispassionately. Time, however, has a way of setting all things into perspective, and it will undoubtedly put the Rosenberg-Sobell case into a different light as the years go by. **THE JUDGMENT OF JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG** is not likely to alter the prevailing opinion on the case, arrived at in the heat of the witch-hunt and by means of only a partial picture, but it is a beginning on the road toward a final reassessment of the popular verdict, and an ultimate re-judgment which is likely to be different from the national verdict of the year of the trial.

One phase of the reassessment ought not to be delayed any longer. Sobell deserves another trial and a new investigation. An increasingly impressive number of leaders in various fields, from Sir Bertrand Russell to Scientist Urey, have already raised their voices in Sobell's behalf. It is not alone the question of the degree of Sobell's

guilt — or, for that matter, of the Rosenbergs' — that is of primary concern, but the interests of American fair play. Meanwhile, I venture to suggest that anyone who reads Mr. Wexley's book with an open mind, bearing before him always the author's obvious prejudice for the defendants and discounting proportionately, is likely to come away from these pages disagreeably disturbed.

THE LOYAL AND THE DISLOYAL: — This is the title of an excellent study by Prof. Morton Grodzins (University of Chicago Press, \$4). It comes to hand appropriately after the Rosenberg study, for the dean of the Social Sciences Division at the University of Chicago here analyzes a current issue. What is the nature and what are the sources of disloyalty, and how sound are the policies America uses to deal with disloyalty and security? Mr. Grodzins' book is dispassionate and balanced; he holds that disloyalty is an outgrowth of any given man's social background, as well as of his place and time—George Washington, for instance, would be held the epitome of treason had we lost the Revolutionary War. He believes, too, that American security programs tend to "create more traitors than they uncover."

But, of course, the primary thesis of **THE LOYAL AND THE DISLOYAL** is that it is impossible to divide men into the loyal and the disloyal, just as it is impossible to say that some men are all good and others are all bad, because, like the line separating the sane from the insane, the division is very thin indeed — almost invisible. It is elementary that everyone experiences conflicts of loyalties, but there is nothing to show that such conflicts will lead to treason. Many Americans are dissatisfied with their way of life:

it was always so, and it will always be so; but only our security programs suggest that such dissatisfied individuals are ultimately disloyal. And, in fact, the reprehensible security programs instigated by government officials, some of whom act like paranoids, have been responsible for dangerous conflicts within many men and women between their loyalty to their country and that for their friends and associates.

THE LOYAL AND THE DISLOYAL is an excellent book. "To sustain the loyalty of its citizens," Prof. Grodzins concludes, "democracy must work for the achievement of the promises held forth by democratic beliefs and made practical by the diversity and productivity of the industrial economy. The producers of democracy — varied in color, creed, interest, and profession — must know the products of economy. The danger is not that individual persons will become disenchanted and turn to treason. The danger is not that industrial democracy will fail because it is inherently unable to supply the satisfactions that, indirectly but certainly, lead to strong national loyalty. The danger is that democracy will fail on its merits. The danger is that democracy will fail because it fails to be democratic."

—THE CAPITAL TIMES.

Thursday, June 28, 1956

Saturday, November 9, 1957

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

L. W. NITZMAN, Founder, 1882

Published by The Journal Company

How Come 'Exclusive Preview' of Case Still Before a Court?

Just as Herbert Brownell retires, his justice department is found to have been playing strange games again, raising a new cloud over its judiciousness and public demeanor.

The matter stems from the Rosenberg spy trial back in 1951 (pre-Brownell). It is not generally remembered that one Morton Sobell was convicted in the same trial, and is doing 30 years in Alcatraz. The department rather tenuously linked him to the Rosenbergs with less than conclusive evidence, which, however, the jury had no trouble believing in those panicky times.

Sobell's wife and an organized group of backers have not ceased to try to get his case reopened. They are supported by a number of conscientious citizens, including legal scholars, who are uneasy about many aspects of the case and have haunting doubts that the integrity of justice was fully preserved in it. Two petitions, one wholly new in its legal basis, now pend before the United States supreme court.

So Brownell last December ordered a study to be made, apparently reviewing and rearguing the whole Rosenberg-Sobell case and setting forth the government's rebuttal to the many questions since raised about it. And suddenly last month, what purports to be the substance of this document—then and now still unpublished by the department—appeared in a national magazine!

The magazine, whose claims have not

been denied, called its article an "exclusive preview" of the official report, made possible because its reporter "was aided by" and "worked along with" the government attorneys and "was given access" to their data! The question asks itself: How come?

Actually, this "first real story" of the case was oversold. It is mainly a mere rehash of the history and the testimony, with a rundown of retorts to "the Communist charges" (the old smear technique) that Sobell might just possibly have been railroaded. It is not so great a scoop as advertised, but that's by the way.

The issue is the gross impropriety and indiscretion of the justice department in so obviously propagandizing just as the matter comes before the high court—and in an exclusive deal, at that, to let one particular publication exploit its files.

Sobell's attorneys quite properly invited the supreme court's attention to this extraordinary procedure. And the court might well take some notice of it.

reprinted as a public service by

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
914 North Plankinton Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Phone: BR 2-1130

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FILE # 100-107111


SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3944 DATE 3-15-60

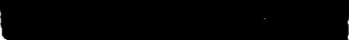
CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION


REPORTING OFFICE PORTLAND	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 3/15/60	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/13-14/60
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL		REPORT MADE BY 	TYPED BY cln
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - C ISA of 1950	b7c

SYNOPSIS:
XXXX


REFERENCE: Report of SA  Portland, 9/30/59. **b7c**

- P* -

ADMINISTRATIVE

This report is classified confidential since data reported from  could reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value, and compromise future effectiveness thereof. **b7D**

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed, and T symbols were utilized in those instances where the identity of the sources must be concealed.

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:		100-107111-3947
5-Bureau (100-387835) (RM)		 b7c
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2-G-2 Seattle (RM)		
1-ONI, Seattle (RM)		
1-OSI, Seattle (RM)		
2-Portland (100-9004)		

PD 100-9004

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity</u>		<u>Location</u>
T-1	[REDACTED] b7D	[REDACTED]
T-2	[REDACTED] b7D	[REDACTED]
T-3	[REDACTED] b7D	[REDACTED]
T-4	[REDACTED] b7D	[REDACTED]
T-5	[REDACTED] b7D	[REDACTED]
T-6	[REDACTED] b7D	NY 100-10711 [REDACTED]
T-7	[REDACTED]	100-9004-1A14
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

PD 100-9004

LEAD:

PORTLAND

AT PORTLAND, OREGON. Will continue to follow the activities of instant committee in the Portland area.

C*
"Cover Page"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to: 2-G-2 (RM)
1-ONI (RM)
1-OSI (RM)

Report of: [REDACTED]
Date: 3/15/60 Office: PORTLAND

Field Office File #: Portland 100-9004 Bufile: 100-387835
Bureau File #:

Title: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Synopsis: Mrs. ROSE LEOPOLD continues to indicate that she is virtually the Sobell Committee in Portland. Activity in Portland takes form chiefly of urging appeals to President for amnesty and to clergymen for assistance.

- P* -

DETAILS:

It will be recalled that Mrs. HELEN SOBELL, wife of MORTON SOBELL, made a visit to Portland, Oregon, during the latter part of July and the first of August, 1959, as part of a tour on behalf of her husband.

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the Portland Sobell
Committee is included in the Western Region of the national
organization. 670

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7D

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED] identified Mrs. ELBERTA WOLLAM as a current active leader of the Communist Party in Portland. b7D

[REDACTED] identified Mrs. ROSE LEOPOLD, 2033 SE Ash Street, Portland, as the individual who has been the leader of the Sobell Committee in Portland over the years and has been virtually a one-man committee. [REDACTED] Mrs. LEOPOLD identified herself [REDACTED] the chairman of the Portland Committee. b7D

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that at a meeting of [REDACTED] held [REDACTED] distributed to those present a copy of a letter to the President requesting him to grant freedom to SOBELL. Similar information was provided [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] who said that [REDACTED] urged all present to affix their signatures to the letter and mail it to the President. b7D

[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] announced that the Sobell Committees in California and New York had requested 1,000 copies of the December issue of the "Social Questions Bulletin", a publication of the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA). He indicated that the committees in California and New York were interested in an article which had appeared in the December issue entitled "Christmas and the Case of Morton Sobell". b7D

A characterization of the Methodist Federation For Social Action is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] told of a form letter prepared by the National Sobell Organization entitled "Appeal to the President on Behalf of Morton Sobell", a letter known as the Clergymen's Appeal. This letter bore the names of 282 clergymen at the conclusion, including 17 from Oregon. b7D

[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] said that he had received through the mail a local Portland appeal, directed to "The Ministers of Greater Portland and Vicinity". This local appeal bore the names of five ministers. b7D

APPENDIX

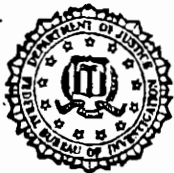
PORTLAND CHAPTER, METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION, aka Oregon Chapter, Methodist Federation for Social Action; Oregon Federation for Social Action

Sources familiar with this organization have advised that the Portland Chapter, Methodist Federation for Social Action, also known as the Oregon Chapter, Methodist Federation for Social Action and the Oregon Federation for Social Action, has been in existence since September 23, 1950, and has consistently to the present time reflected a pro-Russian, pro-Communist line and its present leadership, including its executive board, is composed of former Communist Party members and others who are definitely sympathetic to the Communist Party.

METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

The Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, in its Handbook For Americans, S. Doc. 17, April 23, 1956, p. 91, stated as follows:

"With an eye to religious groups, the Communists have formed religious fronts such as the Methodist Federation for Social Action"



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 709
Portland 7, Oregon

March 15, 1960

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL

INTERNAL SECURITY - C
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Reference is made to report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated and captioned as above. b7c

All confidential informants mentioned in reference report have provided reliable information in the past with the exception of [REDACTED] was in a position to provide reliable information. b7d

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SAC, BOSTON (100-27290)

3/16/60

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-35117)

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL (CSJMS)
IS - C; ISA-50

Re copy of Boston FD-306 dated 2/18/60, concerning
CSJMS.

Reference to LEW IRWIN of San Francisco, California,
refers to LOU IRWIN, news commentator on Channel 7, KABC-TV,
Los Angeles, California, who interviewed HELEN SOBELL on that
station in October, 1959.

Both San Francisco copies of Boston FD-306 are being
furnished to Los Angeles for their information.

- 2 - Boston (100-27290)(REG)
- ① - New York (100-107111)(REG)
- 2 - Los Angeles (Encl. 2)(REG)
(1 LA 100-41648, LASC)

1 @ San Francisco (100-35117)
PMA:hko #8
(6)

b7c

100-107111-3948
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FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3949 DATE 3-16-60

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number [REDACTED].

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 3951 DATE 3-17-60

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~FOIA b7C~~

REPORTING OFFICE PHOENIX	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 3/17/60	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/14 - 3/16/60
TITLE OF CASE THE COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] b7c	TYPED BY JMK
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - C	

REFERENCE

Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 9/17/59 at Phoenix. *b7c*

- P* -

LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES DIVISION (INFO)

One copy of this report is being furnished to the Los Angeles Division, inasmuch as it contains information of interest concerning the Los Angeles Sobell Committee.

THE PHOENIX DIVISION

AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Will follow and report future activities on the Sobell

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">100-107111-3952</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> 46 [REDACTED] <i>b7c</i> </div>
COPIES MADE: 6 - Bureau (100-387835) (RM) 1 - CIC, Los Angeles (RM) 1 - ONI, San Diego (RM) 1 - OSI, Kirtland AFB (RM) 1 - Los Angeles (Info) (100-41648) (RM) 2 - New York (100-107111) (RM) 2 - Phoenix (100-4333)	

Locations:

~~FOIA b7C~~

PX 100-4333

Committee in the State of Arizona.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date (or Description) of Meeting and/or Activity	Type of Report & Agent Receiving	File & Serial Where Located
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T-1

b7D

100-4333

100-4333

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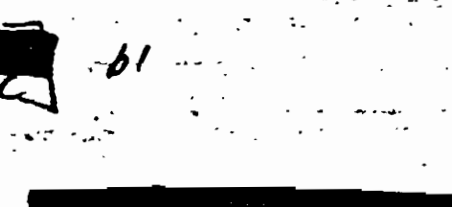
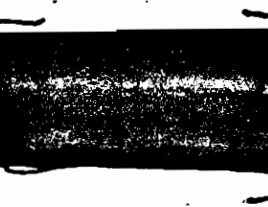
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PI 100-4333


Identity of Source	Date (or Description) of Meeting and/or Activity	Type of Report & Agent Receiving	File & Serial Where Located
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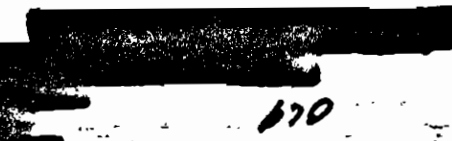
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T-8		b1	
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 b7C

T-9		b7D	
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100-4333-
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T-10		b7D	b7D
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(Request)

T-11		b1	100-10711-  b2
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ADMINISTRATIVE

This report is classified "Confidential", inasmuch as the data reported by various informants could

PX 100-4333

reasonably result in their identification and compromise their future effectiveness.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and "T" symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identity of the source must be concealed.

[REDACTED] admitted membership in the Communist Party on [REDACTED] to SAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED] admitted membership in the Communist Party on [REDACTED] to SAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

b7c

- D* -

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - CIC, Los Angeles (RM)
1 - ONI, San Diego (RM)
1 - OSI, Kirtland Air Force Base (RM)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Report of: SA [REDACTED] *bx* Office: Phoenix
Date: 3/17/60

Field Office File #: PX 100-4333

Bureau File #: 100-387835

Title: THE COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL

Character: IS-C

Synopsis: Mrs. HELEN SOBELL arrived Phoenix, Arizona, 9/17/59 and spoke at meetings 9/17/59 and 9/18/59. Reception held Phoenix for Mrs. HELEN SOBELL on 9/19/59. While in Phoenix, Mrs. SOBELL contacted Phoenix Council of Churches, the Attorney General of Arizona, representatives of various newspapers, as well as other persons, on behalf of the Sobell Committee.

[REDACTED] book was "Justice Done?", written by MALCOLM SHARP reviewed at Phoenix Sobell Committee Meeting 10/10/59. ANNETTE T. RUBINSTEIN, author, spoke in Phoenix on 2/2/60 on behalf of the Sobell case. Printed letters to President DWIGHT EISENHOWER, requesting that sentence of MORTON SOBELL be commuted, have been passed out in Phoenix with request they be signed and sent to the President. 670

- P* -

DETAILS:

The Communist Party, USA (CP), has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PX 100-4333

[REDACTED]
a meeting has been held

[REDACTED] to lay plans for HELEN SOBELL to contact people and appear at meetings in Phoenix.

b7D

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in discussing the efforts to help MORTON SOBELL. [REDACTED] made the statement that "Russia is where she is today because of people like the Rosenbergs and the Sobells."

b7D

[REDACTED]
Mrs. HELEN SOBELL is due to arrive in Phoenix by airplane from Los Angeles, California, on the morning of September 17, 1959.

[REDACTED]
A meeting was planned for the evening of September 17, 1959, at NORA RYAN's and another on the evening of September 18, 1959, at North Mountain Farm, Area No. 4, Sunnyslope, Phoenix, Arizona.

[REDACTED]
A reception was also planned for Mrs. SOBELL at the home of DAVE EISENSTEIN, Phoenix.

b7D

b7D

b7D

PX 100-4333

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

Mrs. HELEN SOBELL stated that MORTON SOBELL, her husband, was a victim of McCARTHY hysteria and was convicted of espionage along with the ROSENBERGs. HELEN SOBELL repeated the popular line to prove that her husband is innocent and said they were kidnapped in Mexico and manhandled. She read excerpts from various newspaper articles about her trip through the west on behalf of her husband.

[REDACTED]

b7d

[REDACTED]

The following invitation was sent out in an envelope postmarked September 15, 1959, Phoenix, Arizona, bearing the return address of DAVID L. JONES, 1612 West Northern, WI 3-5046: